

'Mine may have sunk ferry'

TALLINN (AFP) — One of about 40 abandoned naval mines discovered floating in the Baltic Sea may have sunk the Estonia, the ferry's chief operator said here Saturday. "There are some 40 sea mines near Osmussaar — this could be a solution," said Johannes Johanson, managing director of Estline, the company which operated the Estonia. Osmussaar is an Estonian island located about 30 kilometres southwest of Tallinn in the Baltic Sea. The existence of the mines has been confirmed by the Estonian government and the area has been closed off to shipping. Mr. Johanson said in an interview. He said he did not know where the mines came from. "Maybe they were from World War II," he said. The Estonia sank suddenly early Wednesday during a Tallinn to Stockholm voyage with more than 1,000 people on board, of whom only 140 are believed to have survived (see page 5). Company officials and investigators in Sweden and Finland have suggested several possible explanations for the disaster, including the opening of the cargo hold's main doors during passage and the shutdown of the ship's motors. Mr. Johanson has denied that there were any faults with the vessel that could have caused it to sink.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994, RABI' ALTHANI 26, 1415

Israel is ready to withdraw after marking border - Majali

No date set because talks not yet at that stage

By Saad Shawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel has expressed its readiness to withdraw its forces from Jordanian territories occupied since 1968 and agreed to delineate international borders with the Kingdom, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Saturday.

"There is no alternative to delineation of the borders after which each side will withdraw to the agreed lines. Israel has expressed readiness to withdraw after maps have been drawn and the delineation of borders is completed," Dr. Majali said in an interview with Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

Dr. Majali said that no date has been set yet for the withdrawal because the process had to be finalised in the right perspective first and matters should not be rushed.

Noting that a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee had been reviewing maps and documents in the possession of the two sides, Dr. Majali said both sides had agreed to

respect the territorial integrity of each other once the borders were demarcated.

Dr. Majali said His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Aqaba on Thursday came in line with the provisions in the Washington Declaration.

The King and Mr. Rabin will be meeting now and then to review progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and discuss any obstacle or misunderstanding, Dr. Majali said.

He said that the Aqaba summit — "one more link in a series of links" — was frank and serious in nature.

The two sides reviewed steps that were taken so far and the problems that impede the process as well as attempts to overcome the difficulties, he said.

The prime minister said that so far the talks, which focus on the common agenda, had not yet reached the stage when one could say that a peace agreement was ready for signing.

"As it is known, the common agenda contains numer-

ous topics and the two sides are still to reach a final stage in their discussions," he said, reiterating Jordan's commitment to the common agenda as a basis for the negotiations.

Commenting on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Has-San's current visit to Washington, where he is to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday, Dr. Majali said that the meeting was part of the bilateral negotiations.

The trilateral meetings involving the United States deal with many projects which are to be initiated in the region and are of concern to Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians.

He said American support for these projects was of paramount importance.

On Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), especially in the aftermath of Jordan's decision to end its guardianship over the Awqaf and Islamic sites in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem, Dr. Majali said: "If there was a crisis with the

PLO over this matter it should have ended now following Jordan's decision because the road is open for the Palestinian brothers of the Palestine National Authority to take charge of the Awqaf affairs."

But, he noted, the Palestine National Authority has not yet been extended to Jerusalem and that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the Holy City are to be held in the final stage.

"Once that final stage has been reached there will be a reconsideration of this question," said Dr. Majali, adding that "the Palestinian brothers hold the right over their own lands."

Denying any crisis with the PLO, Dr. Majali said: "There are certain parties who try to create one with or without due cause."

"We do not feel that a crisis exists and we do not create any crisis nor do we want to be part of one."

Asked about his views concerning the three Arab Gulf islands occupied by Iran, Dr.

(Continued on page 7)

GCC ends partial boycott of Israel

DUBAI (Agencies) — Gulf Arab states have ended 47 years of boycotting companies that trade with Israel but they are not likely to drop a direct boycott of the Jewish state outside an overall Arab consensus, diplomats said on Saturday.

They said some of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, where foreign investments are worth billions of dollars and imports are valued at some \$45 billion a year, had eased their boycott on firms dealing with Israel after the 1990-91 Gulf war over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The new move was significant and came as a surprise after the Gulf states reportedly said they would follow any Arab League decision on lifting the boycott, which remains a highly emotive issue for many Arabs, they added.

Diplomats outside the region say the Washington

administration had put heavy pressure on the Saudi-led GCC to ease the boycott and linked it to continued U.S. objection to the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq (see page 2).

"The decision is a significant step towards ending the direct boycott of Israel, but the Gulf states will not do that without an Arab consensus and before some progress being made between Israel and Syria," one diplomat said.

"I don't think any attempts to lift the direct boycott will succeed," said a Gulf diplomat. "Gulf states are waiting to see what is happening on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks."

The diplomats said the Gulf states still felt "a sense of gratitude" for Syria's role in the U.S.-led multinational force that ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in 1991.

Iran blasted GCC for easing the boycott, saying the decision was proof of Arab disunity.

Iran's state radio warned the move would "make it easier for the Zionist regime to carry out its plots in the Middle East."

Lifting the boycott has been a long-standing U.S. goal, but is opposed by Syria, which argued forcefully against it at an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo last March. Damascus says it should await an overall peace settlement.

"There is no incentive left for the Gulf to keep the primary boycott. What is left is the element of political embarrassment," a Kuwaiti economist said. "Any development on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks would open the way to end the primary boycott."

In the first reported Arab reaction, newspapers in

Beirut quoted Foreign Minister Faris Bouze as saying in New York that the GCC decision was a rushed move that will not help the Arab position at the peace talks.

A GCC statement issued on Friday after talks between GCC foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York said the six states had taken "necessary measures" to protect the interests of the GCC and its trading partners.

As a result of these measures and for all practical purposes, secondary and tertiary boycott are no longer a threat to the interests of these partners," it said.

The secondary boycott refers to an Arab League ban since the creation of Israel in 1948 on trading with firms that deal with Israel. The tertiary part bans deals with companies that trade with

(Continued on page 7)

such an agreement so that people will have a clear and complete picture of what they are voting for."

A survey by Haifa University among 1,500 Israelis indicated that 52 per cent favoured territorial compromise on the Golan in exchange for peace, while 45 per cent gave back to the PNA.

Among the respondents were 400 Likud voters. Polls showed separately, 28 per cent said they favoured territorial compromise, while 69 per cent said they opposed it.

But when the Likud voters were asked whether their party should adopt a position of territorial compromise, 46 per cent said yes and 42 per cent said no.

The poll results were broadcast on Israel Radio which did not give the margin of error.

Former Israeli President Chaim Herzog was quoted as saying on Saturday Israel should take a tougher stance in peace talks with Syria and demand direct negotiations before the Monday meeting in Rafah.

"The draft agreement is to be with the PLO-Israel accord signed in Cairo in May," Dr. Shaath said.

According to the Cairo agreement, Palestinian policemen would be deployed in terminals at border crossings. The policemen would carry handguns.

"Palestinian residents of

Gaza (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel are expected to sign an agreement on Monday on Palestinian presence at border crossings to the self-rule areas from Egypt and Jordan, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Saturday.

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said a 61-page draft agreement finalised on Thursday was submitted to the PNA on Saturday.

"I have the approval of the cabinet for signing or at least initialising the agreement of passages on Monday," Dr. Shaath told reporters after the meeting.

"We hope this will lead to immediate implementation of the agreement," he said.

The general-secretary of the PNA, Tayeb Abdul Rahim, told Reuters its members would study the draft and submit their comments before the Monday meeting in Rafah.

"The draft agreement is to be with the PLO-Israel accord signed in Cairo in May," Dr. Shaath said.

According to the Cairo agreement, Palestinian policemen would be deployed in terminals at border crossings. The policemen would press for holding the elections as early as possible.

"Palestinian residents of

self-rule areas crossing into Gaza and Jericho will be dealing only with Palestinian officers at the border crossings, but there will be new measures which are aimed at facilitating crossing and ensuring the dignity of persons," he said.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinian authority also discussed in its meeting the mandate of the committee on elections, which will meet with Israelis on Monday in Cairo.

"We would like to see elections take place as soon as possible, not later than the end of this year," Dr. Shaath said.

The PNA official in charge of elections also said he hoped negotiations with Israel would produce agreements to hold polls for a Palestinian self-rule council by the year's end.

Sami Erakat, chairman of the Palestinian elections committee, told Israel Radio that at the Cairo talks the Palestinians would press for holding the elections as early as possible.

"Palestinian residents of



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday presents the Al Nahda Medal of the First Order to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad (Photo by Yousef Al-'Allan)

King, Mahathir discuss Mideast peace process, bilateral relations

Malaysian premier, Majali voice hope for boosted ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Raghadan Palace Saturday Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and discussed with him the Middle East situation and ways to boost cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia in various fields.

King Hussein outlined to Dr. Mahathir progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace process, noting that the Kingdom had shouldered heavy burdens over the past decades as a result of the Palestine question, which he said left their adverse effects on the Kingdom's economy.

Dr. Mohammad said his country understands and appreciates the Jordanian position and the hardships the country had to face over the past decades.

He voiced support for the Kingdom's policies and its drive to attain a just and durable peace.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Following the meeting, the King and the Malaysian premier held an expanded meeting attended by officials on both sides. Discussions covered political, economic and cultural affairs, with special focus on ways to bolster trade and economic cooperation.

Dr. Majali hosted a state dinner Saturday in honour of the Malaysian premier and the delegation accompanying him.

For the momentum of the peace process to be maintained, it is important that Israel matches its words with deeds," he said.

"The Muslim World today suffers from various maladies," he said. "They are weak and oppressed and we have the emergence of numerous sects and creeds, some of which plainly deviate from the true teachings of Islam. In Malaysia today, we do not have problems relating to extremism and we do have groups who are deviationist in their approach. One such group was

(Continued on page 7)

Sarid: Hebron settlers may have to be moved

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli government may have to move Jewish settlers in Hebron once Israeli troops withdraw from the tense West Bank city under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord, an Israeli cabinet minister said Saturday.

Environment Protection Minister Yossi Sarid also said he expected many Jewish settlements to be dismantled once Israel and the Palestinians reach a permanent peace agreement.

"It is clear to everyone that tomorrow's map of peace will be a far cry from today's map of the settlements," Mr. Sarid, a senior Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians, told Israel Radio.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, all 144 Jewish settle-

(Continued on page 7)

Saleh reelected Yemen president

SANA (Agencies) — Yemen's parliament, meeting in the capital Sanaa on Saturday, overwhelmingly reelected Ali Abdullah Saleh as president, almost three months after he crushed southern secessionists.

However, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly came close to ordering an evacuation of the 450 Jewish settlers from Hebron after a settler shot and killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahim mosque in February.

Hebron has been particularly tense since the massacre. The Jewish settlers live in six tiny enclaves in the town of 110,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin is the head of the Israel-PLO accord, which was declared invalid.

Constitutional amendments approved by parliament on Wednesday left Mr. Saleh as Yemen's undisputed leader by abolishing the ruling five-member presidential council, of which he was chairman, and replacing it by a president of the republic.

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. troops keep distance in Haiti looting

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. troops and Haitian police dispersed a new outbreak of looting in the port area here Saturday, but elsewhere there was a relative calm after two days of bloodshed.

Two congressional delegations meanwhile were to pay a brief visit to assess the situation as Washington grappled with how best to ensure security during the transition from military to democratic rule.

The Haitians returned with a truckload of officers and broke up the crowd by lobbing a teargas canister at them. U.S. military police then arrived again to secure the premises.

Asked why the U.S. forces did not intervene more forcefully at first, embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said: "There's no way we could provide security for every store in the city. You don't intervene unless life is threatened."

The area near the Port-au-Prince port was the site of looting Friday and a grenade

attack Thursday on a crowd of supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide which killed at least seven people and wounded over 80.

Another five people were killed and some 30 wounded, the Red Cross said Friday in an updated toll, when supporters and opponents of Aristide clashed after a commemorative mass at the Roman Catholic Cathedral followed by a march.

The scene was quiet Saturday outside the headquarters of the pro-military Front for the Advancement and Progress in Haiti (FRAPH), the scene of the street clashes.

"We learned something from yesterday's incidents," embassy spokesman Schrager said, although he reaffirmed U.S. concern over the failure of the Haitian police to control the situation.

"It's clear they have not done what we hoped they would do which is to provide

security during the transition," Mr. Schrager said.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry predicted more bloodshed before the army is scheduled to hand over power. He said Friday that Haiti's two major cities would be "blanketed" with U.S. soldiers to try to minimise the violence.

No widespread violence was reported Saturday in the capital. But a man with knife wounds was carted into Port-au-Prince's main hospital Saturday morning after he was attacked by a mob that accused him of being a pro-army militiaman.

By Oct. 15, Haitian army commander Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras is to step aside in favour of Mr. Aristide, the elected president ousted seven months into his term.

Gen. Cedras agreed to relinquish power to avert a U.S. invasion,

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994 3

Queen inaugurates Jordanian art exhibit in Rome

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated the "Contemporary Art of Jordan: Conglomerations" exhibition in Rome Thursday, which displayed a rich and diverse collection from the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, said a Royal Court statement Saturday.

The selection of contemporary Jordanian art, which included works by ten leading Jordanian artists, demonstrated a medley of styles and approaches, including geometric and lyrical abstractions, realism, calligraphy and depictions of socio-political themes.

The exhibition was organised by the Jordan National Gallery in cooperation with the Egyptian Academy in Rome.

Queen Noor, patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts which founded the Jordan National Gallery in 1979, is an advocate of the art movement in Jordan and the region believing it a way to promote intercultural understandings.

This exhibition is one example of the various fields of cooperation between Jordan and Italy, which include art, archaeology, tourism, education and handicrafts.

Such cultural and artistic exchanges promote tourism, and in 1993, the largest number of European tourists to visit Jordan came from Italy, said the statement.

In her remarks, Queen Noor thanked the Royal Society of Fine Arts for their contribution in the organisation of the exhibition and stressed the important contributions the Middle East region has



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inaugurates the "Contemporary Art of Jordan: Conglomerations" exhibition in Rome (photo by George Crystal)

made to the world saying, "whether as a consequence of ancient imperial contacts, trade, spiritual pilgrimage, or the fascination of ordinary travellers from new and different cultures, the people of our region of the world have always transcended the barriers of geography in order to exchange goods and ideas. In so doing, they have also fostered common human values that have radiated from the Mediterranean Basin to the four corners of the world."

The Queen spoke of the "long legacy of interaction among the cultures of the Mediterranean Basin" and the interchange of ideas describing their impact on contemporary Jordanian art.

"The first generation of Jordanian artists was

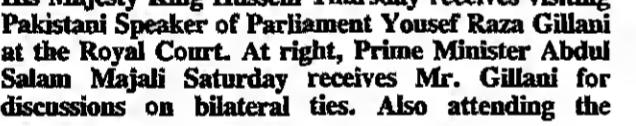
exposed to Western artistic expression through periods of study abroad, namely at the Academia Di Belle Arte in Rome and Florence in the 1950's" the Queen said.

She added, "these different influences were integrated within our culture and produced a synthesis of Arab and Western artistic traditions, which were to shape the modern art movement in Jordan."

Earlier, Queen Noor was guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by Italian President Scalfaro and Ms. Marie Anna Scalfaro. President Scalfaro welcomed the Queen saying her presence in Italy to inaugurate the exhibition is a mark of the strong cultural relations which exist between Italy and Jordan, and which date back thousands of years. Calling Queen Noor "a

messenger of peace" the president heralded the new era of peace in the Middle East and its promise of development and prosperity in the region, and expressed his hope that Italy and Jordan would cooperate and contribute to a lasting peace, through "understanding among peoples... as human relations are the prerequisite for a lasting written document to be implemented."

Queen Noor was received by Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the National Gallery and the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Princess Nafaa Ali, Ambassador and Mrs. Giulio di Lorenzo Badia, the Italian chief of protocol and Ambassador and Mrs. Hassan Abu Nimeh, the Jordanian ambassador to Italy, said the statement.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday receives visiting Pakistani Speaker of Parliament Yousef Raza Gillani at the Royal Court. At right, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday receives Mr. Gillani for discussions on bilateral ties. Also attending the



meeting were Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jamnab, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi (Petra photos)

Visiting Pakistani parliament speaker concludes talks with leaders, officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting speaker of Pakistan's parliament, Yousef Raza Gillani, today winds up a several-day visit to Jordan during which he met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials to discuss issues of common interest.

At a meeting held at the prime ministry Saturday, Dr. Majali and Mr. Gillani reviewed bilateral ties and discussed regional and international issues of common concern.

The Middle East peace process and the Israeli-

Jordanian talks were also discussed at the meeting, attended by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri and Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jamnab.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Dr. Majali as outlining to the Pakistani official Jordan's position with regard to the peace process and its quest to attain a lasting settlement.

Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi was present at the meeting.

Gillani and his hosts reviewed several issues pertaining to the democratic process and parliamentary affairs.

The Pakistani ambassador was present at the meetings,

which were followed by a visit by Mr. Gillani to the Jordan Valley region where some 4,500 Pakistani workers are employed in agricultural projects.

The ambassador said Pakistani labourers have been working in the region for the past 25 years and contributing to the development of the Jordan Valley.



TRADE TALKS: The Jordanian-Moroccan Economic Committee Saturday opens talks at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The two sides reviewed a number of obstacles to the free exchange of goods, and prepared for an agreement to be signed by the Moroccan and Jordanian ministers of industry and trade at the end of the three-day meetings. The committee will also prepare a list of commodities which can be exchanged by the two countries. The Moroccan team is headed by Minister Edris Hatto. (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

POETRY RECITAL

* Poetry recital by poet Jamila Al Ajouri (accompanied by music played by Samir Al Sharif) at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

LECTURE

* Lecture in Arabic entitled "A Reading in the French-written Moroccan Drama" by Dr. Amia Al Zawi of Algeria at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Ceramics exhibition by Hamed Abdul Majed at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammed Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Photography exhibition at the University of Jordan.

* Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

* Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Wadah Al Ward at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

* Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'd Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

* Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).

Jordan, Malaysia open talks on scientific, economic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Malaysia Saturday opened formal talks here, paving the way for the conclusion of several agreements covering scientific, cultural, technological and economic fields.

Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who led his country's side to the talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, said the discussions were frank and constructive, covering bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

Malaysia is seeking to recruit a large number of Jordanian doctors, engineers and technicians to work in Malaysia, said Dr. Mahathir, adding that the excellent standards of Jordan's professional centres are what attracted Malaysia.

He said that there is a great deal of serious work to be done by the two sides, and this can mutually benefit the national economy and attract foreign investments, said Dr. Mahathir in outlining his country's economic development.

Dr. Mahathir said his country was following with keen interest and concern the progress in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track. Malaysia's future relations with the countries of the region depend to a great extent on the developments in the peace process, he said.

Referring to his delegation's talks in Jordan, the Malaysian premier said he hoped the discussions would further existing relations and promote economic and trade exchanges between both

countries. Close cooperation between the private and public sectors in Malaysia has played a key role in boosting the national economy and attracting foreign investments, said Dr. Mahathir in outlining his country's economic development.

Jordan and Malaysia, he added, can benefit from each other's experience in privatisation especially in civil aviation, communications and energy, said the Malaysian premier, adding that such development in his country has resulted in major gains.

Mr. Rawabdeh said the two sides set up three specialised committees to discuss cooperation in tourism, education, transport, commercial exchanges and Islamic affairs.

Meanwhile, separate talks

were held between several Jordan and Malaysian officials on transportation, tourism and higher education, while the business delegation accompanying the Malaysian officials met at the Amman Chamber of Industry with Jordanian private sector representatives to discuss trade and industrial relations.

Also Saturday Dr. Mahathir visited the Martyr's Memorial in Amman where he toured the display on the development of the Armed Forces and the history of the Great Arab Revolt.

He also visited King Hussein Medical Centre, accompanied by Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan and other officials.

Dr. Adwan later accompanied the Malaysian premier on a visit to Jerash.



Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammud Saturday deputes for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at a pan-Arab meeting of news agencies (Petra photo)

Majali calls for creation of united Arab news agency

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day pan-Arab meeting to discuss the flow of news information among Arab states opened Saturday with a call by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali for the creation of a united Arab news agency.

The Arab states have more than 15 news agencies which lack intrinsic capabilities and depend on one another or on information provided by the international news agencies, said the prime minister in an address delivered on behalf by Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammud.

He said it is regrettable that all efforts exerted in the past towards unifying the work of the Arab countries' news agencies have gone in vain and the aspired objective seems to be out of reach.

Referring to Arabsat, Dr. Majali said the satellite organization seems to have failed to serve its purpose of unifying information systems through a united news agency, but it is hoped that specialists attending the current meeting would contribute towards fulfilling this end, especially as the world is witnessing what he called an information revolution.

Jordan along with Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Morocco and Yemen are represented at the meeting which has been organized by the Information Ministry in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ALESCO).

The prime minister urged the specialists to try to bridge the technology gap with the advanced nations by coming up with ideas to ensure a better and unified system for the transfer of information among the Arab states.

Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Molla said in a statement that the delegates will examine obstacles to the flow of information among Arab countries, utilization of modern technology in information fields, closer cooperation among Arab news agencies through Arabsat, Arab states' information policies and other related topics.

A working paper submitted to the first session by Isam Mousa of Yarmouk University said that unclear information policies in Arab countries, different Arabic dialects and illiteracy are among the main impediments to the free flow of information among Arab countries.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Attempt to film sunken Baltic ferry delayed by weather

TURKU, Finland (R) — Bad weather Saturday delayed attempts to film the wreck of the ferry Estonia to establish whether its outer bow door broke off, causing it to sink with the loss of over 500 lives.

Finnish experts who found the wreck Friday in about 70 metres of water in the Baltic Sea said a ship carrying two remote-controlled underwater cameras, the Halli, was unable to leave harbour.

The wreck is believed to contain up to 800 bodies and crew who were unable to get off the ship when it capsized and sank in stormy seas in the early hours of Wednesday. There were 140 survivors, and around 90 bodies have been recovered.

"The Halli has not started," Kari Lehtola, head of the Finnish section of a three-nation Accident Investigation Commission told Reuters.

"There are difficulties with the weather. If it continues as stormy as this it is virtually useless to try, as it would be completely impossible to film," he said.

"We are looking at the weather the whole time and the ship is still in Turku Harbour."

Swedish investigators said Friday that the outer bow of the Estonia had been ripped

off, sending water flooding into the car and causing the ship to capsize and sink within minutes.

A Finnish expert located the wreck in the Gulf of Finland Friday using a sophisticated sonar device, but was unable to determine the state of the bow door.

Marine experts agreed that the loss of an outer door in the sort of stormy weather that raged early Wednesday when the Estonia went down on a voyage from Estonia to Sweden would have quickly rendered the ship unstable.

Denmark, Finland and Sweden all ordered urgent checks into the bow sections of roll-on, roll-off ferries.

Swedish engineers started inspecting all 46 ferries like the 15,500-tonne Estonia using Swedish water and marine safety chief Bengt-Erik Stenmark said he would ban if faults were found.

The Estonia went down off Utö Island, southwest of Finland, in an area known as the Baltic Sea's "graveyard" because of its treacherous currents. Many wrecks litter the seabed.

The head of the rescue operation, Raimo Tiihikainen, said the ship was lying on its left side, with the bow in 53 metres (175 feet) of water and the stern in 86

metres (280 feet), and it was sinking slowly into soft mud.

He said he would not reveal the exact coordinates of the wreck to prevent outside divers trying to reach it. "If it is to be somebody's grave, we can't bave people going there," he said.

The wreck was discovered by a search vessel carrying leading Finnish marine geologist Jukka Nuorteva, who said the ship's propeller was detected on his sonar system, but the condition of the bow section was not immediately clear.

Another search vessel was due to go to the site Saturday with two remote-controlled underwater cameras. "We hope to obtain some exact information on the condition of the wreckage," said Finnish investigator Tuomo Karppinen.

If the hull is accessible, Dutch salvage firm Wijnsmuller plans to send divers down to try to recover bodies of the hundreds of passengers trapped in their cabins as they slept.

But salvage experts said that raising the sunken ferry could be one of the toughest and most traumatic salvage jobs ever tackled, and might ultimately prove too costly. Dick Fairbanks, a partner

Nigerian opposition leader arrested

LAGOS (Agencies) — Police arrested key opposition figure Gani Fawehinmi in Lagos early Saturday, fellow opposition leader Femi Fela-tola told AFP.

Fawehinmi was planning to officially announce here Saturday the creation of a new opposition party despite the ban on political activity by the current military regime headed by General Sani Abacha.

Traffic around the meeting hall in Anthony Village, in northern Lagos, was stopped and people not resident in the district were turned away. The NC seeks to abolish

poverty in Nigeria and to "take power by democratic means" so Moshood Abiola, the main opposition figure in Nigeria, can head a new government.

Moshood Abiola was arrested for treason on June 23, after he proclaimed himself president following elections in June, 1993, subsequently annulled by the military.

Wary leaders raced across the capital to celebrations in guarded motorcades.

For many attending the displays and performances, National Day was a chance to reflect on how their lives had

Dudayev accuses Russia of destroying Grozny airport

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — The president of the breakaway region of Chechnya accused Russia of destroying the city's only airport and causing heavy civilian casualties, a news agency reported.

"Russian troops deal a rocket strike (at the airport) and a (nearby) town... destroying the entire airport building and parked planes. The runway also has been destroyed," said Dzhokhar Dudayev, as quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

He said the strike, reportedly carried out by four helicopters, caused "numerous casualties among the civilian population."

Mr. Dudayev's remarks contradict reports ITAR-TASS obtained from the Chechen police, who said rockets fired at the airport had no warheads and caused only minor damage. Police also said there were

Volcano erupts in Russia's Kamchatka

MOSCOW (R) — A powerful volcanic eruption, which experts described as a potential threat to air navigation in northern Pacific, began late Friday on Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka peninsula, ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday.

It said Klyuchevskaya Sopka volcano was spewing ash 20,000 metres (65,000 feet) into the atmosphere. A plume of smoke from the volcano stretched 1,500 kilometres out over the Pacific Ocean, it added.

There have been numerous but conflicting reports about fighting between opposition forces and troops loyal to Mr. Dudayev near or even inside the regional capital of Grozny.

Palau ends status as U.N. trust territory

KOROR, Palau (R) — The Western Pacific Republic of Palau ended its status as the last U.N. Trust Territory Saturday and formally entered into a compact with the United States. President Kuniwa Nakamura said.

The compact of free association with the United States is a 50-year political, defence and economic treaty that gives Palau a greater degree of autonomy, which some observers tagged as "independence."

"We understand that with our new political status, comes new responsibilities. We seek friendship with all nations and pledge to abide by the rules of international law," Mr. Nakamura said in a speech after the flag of Palau was raised in a four-hour ceremony.

Palau has been a U.N. Trust Territory administered by the United States since World War II.

"We ask our neighbours to recognise our international borders and pledge to recognise theirs," he said before about 4,000 people including foreign dignitaries.

Under a compact with the United States, approved by Palau's voters in a referendum last year, the island will become self-governing with Washington retaining responsibility for external defence.

"It's my particular honour to end the period of trusteeship and the entry into force of our compact of free association," U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a letter to Mr. Nakamura, read by U.S.

The experts said all information concerning the eruption was passed on to their U.S. colleagues in Alaska. They also said there was no immediate threat to the residents of villages situated around the volcano.

TASS said there had been only two similarly powerful eruptions in the recorded history of Klyuchevskaya Sopka — one in 1737 and another in 1945.

Commercial airliners normally cruise at altitudes of up to 11,300 metres.

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He assured the continuing support of the United States to Palau, which will receive nearly \$1 billion in assistance over the next 50 years.

Palau's Ibedul, or high chief, Yutaka Gibbons, the premier spokesman for the opposition, was not among the hundreds of local leaders in the Independence Day celebration.

"This is not independence," Chief Gibbons told Reuters in an interview. "This is just a celebration of the compact of free association."

Chief Gibbons said the compact was a U.S. law. "It's not a treaty. If something goes wrong with the U.S. economy, they could put a halt to it. If we do something they don't like, they can withdraw the law and they can amend it."

Mr. Nakamura said earlier he respected the rights of the opponents to the compact. "I would like to publicly ask them to join the majority's wish so once and for all we can put his issue behind us," he said.

of the United States that follows an IRA-declared ceasefire in its war against British rule.

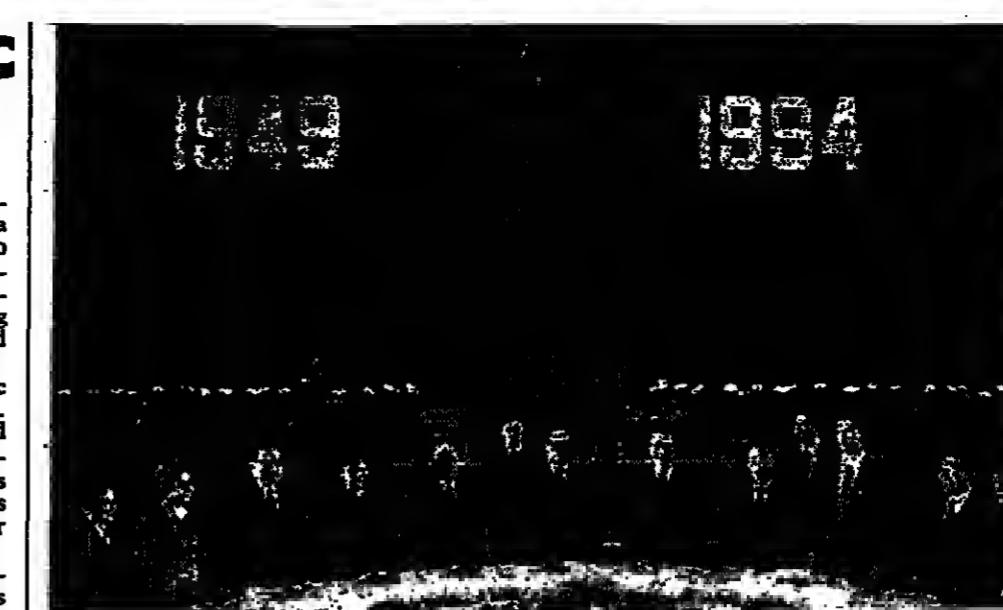
He plans to meet legislative leaders and address several meetings attended by Irish-Americans, but U.S. officials said he will definitely not get to see President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore or National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

Mr. Adams' appointments in Washington are a matter of interest because he has an interest in the issue ever since his student days at Britain's Oxford University in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In a delicate piece of diplomatic choreographing designed to encourage peace in Northern Ireland and avoid strains with Britain, the officials said some mid-level White House people were likely to meet Mr. Adams, probably at the State Department.

"We have to figure out how to do it in a responsible way, properly calibrated with all the forces we have to deal with on this issue — London, Dublin, the factions in Northern Ireland and the Irish-American community," one source said.

Mr. Adams, who heads Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, will be here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as part of a two-week, nine-city tour



Chinese leaders and foreign guests stand at attention as the Chinese national anthem is played during the National Day reception at the Great Hall of the People. From left are: Shi, unidentified; King Norodom Sihanouk, President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, North Korean Vice President Li Jong-Ok, unidentified and CPPCC Chairman Li Ru-jun. (AFP photo)

China throws party for 45th anniversary

BEIJING (R) — China threw a party in Tiananmen Square Saturday to celebrate 45 years of the People's Republic, but the event was tightly policed and choreographed, underlining the Communist Party's emphasis on stability.

Thousands of Chinese flocked to the vast square and numerous city parks to view elaborate floral displays, listen to musicians and watch acrobats perform.

"It can agree that the equipment was not doing its job since so many people died, but it is up to the rule makers and designers to look into this," Stein Forsberg, technical director at Swedish shipbuilder Nordström Thulin AB, told Reuters.

"I am quite sure that the aftermath of the tremendous tragedy will result in stricter regulations for life saving equipment."

Oct. 1 is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, marking the anniversary of the day in 1949 when the revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung stood at the Gate of Heavenly Peace in front of the 100-acre (40-hectare) square and proclaimed the start of the Communist state.

Wary leaders raced across the capital to celebrations in guarded motorcades.

For many attending the displays and performances, National Day was a chance to reflect on how their lives had

changed because of economic reforms which have replaced much of Mao's Socialist structure with capitalist-style markets.

"It makes me proud to be a Chinese," said Zhang Mei, a worker at the main government television station.

Thousands of Chinese flocked to the vast square and numerous city parks to view elaborate floral displays, listen to musicians and watch acrobats perform.

"It is much faster today," she said.

A man standing in a park near a portrait of the architect of China's reform process, 90-year-old Deng Xiaoping, agreed that the anniversary celebrations were equally in honour of the way Mr. Deng's ideas had transformed the country.

"This shows the results of liberalisation and reflects the changes across the country," said 43-year-old Xiao Gang, a government worker.

To drive home the message, officials placed in the park a sculpture of three hands holding a copy of Mr. Deng's selected works.

The official press, filled for weeks with reports of China's achievements during the past 45 years, continued the theme of China's triumphant march towards the 21st century Saturday.

In the spirit of celebration, little mention was made of the many difficulties facing the country, including high inflation, bankrupt state enterprises and a growing gulf between rich and poor.

Premier Li Peng, in his National Day address Friday night, declared that China would emerge victorious.

"Measures have already been taken to address these problems," he told about 3,000 guests in the Great Hall of the People.

"We have the confidence and the ability to overcome the difficulties and problems cropping up on the road ahead and push for continuous progress in China's reform and opening-up programme and its modernisation drive."

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Mr. Aliyev said in a statement the killings were an attempt to destabilise the country "to create artificial confrontation and panic in order to turn the country off its course toward political and economic independence."

The assassinations Thursday of Shamsi Ragimov, head

of a special intelligence service attached to the presidency, and Ahyyaddin Dzhaliyev, deputy speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament, prompted coup rumours in Baku.

Mr. Aliyev, who has been attending the U.N. General Assembly debate, was leaving for Istanbul later in the day and expected to be back in Baku Saturday, Azerbaijanian officials said.

Both murdered officials were "very close" to Mr. Aliyev, Foreign Minister Ragim Gazyev, who has become a bitter opponent of Mr. Aliyev.

In Baku, officials also linked the killings to the signing of an oil exploration contract Sept. 22.

Among the escapees was former Defence Minister Ragim Gazyev, who has become a bitter opponent of Mr. Aliyev.

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World News



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994



Skulls, human remains and clothes of civil-war victims are scattered in front of the Catholic church of Nyarubuye, near the southeastern Rwandan town of Ugarama. Nearly one million Rwandans were reportedly killed during the war (AFP photo)

U.N. to clear Rwandan refugee camp of thugs

GOMA, Zaire (R) — U.N. officials went into crisis meeting Saturday with aid workers and a Zairean governor to seek ways to wrest control of a sprawling Rwandan refugee camp back from militia thugs. Some 270,000 people live in the camp which up to 90 international aid workers were forced to abandon Friday when thugs from the "refugee ranks" took it over.

In the Rwandan capital of Kigali President Pasteur Bizimungu urged all displaced Rwandans in camps across the tiny central African country and refugees abroad to return home and live in peace.

U.N. officials in the eastern Zairean town of Goma said they were meeting aid agency representatives and the local Zairean governor to discuss the crisis in Katala camp, 50 kilometres to the north.

They said a delegation including the governor, aid agency officials and officers from the U.N. force in Rwanda would go to Katala for talks with leaders in an attempt to bring the camp under control so aid to its 270,000 residents could resume.

Aid agencies pulled all international staff out of Katala after extremist Hutu militiamen seized control of the camp and threatened workers.

Between 50 and 80 foreign aid workers who abandoned Katala drove north to the southern Ugandan town of Kabale for the night rather than risk passing through a string of camps on the road to Goma.

Katala camp is the furthest from Goma of the refugee centres set up to cope with a flood of nearly one million refugees from the Hutu majority who crossed from northwest Rwanda in July.

The camps are largely under the sway of former officials of the ousted Rwandan government and 28,000 troops and militia members who fled with civilian refugees. Hutu soldiers and militiamen are blamed for the massacre of an estimated one million people from April to July.

U.N. officials have repeatedly asked Zairean authorities to disarm the Rwandan soldiers and isolate them but Zairean army officers say they do not have enough men to tackle the task.

A delegation from the Kigali-based U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda is in Goma for talks with Zairean officials on the possibility of using U.N. troops to move the soldiers to their side.

A Japanese military contingent to help the refugees arrive in Goma Sunday but Japanese officials have said they might withdraw their troops if security in the Goma area deteriorates.

The contingent — 290 from the army, 180 from the air force — is equipped with light weapons to be used only in self-defence.

Refugees beat to death a Zairean scout working for the U.N. refugees agency in Katala Wednesday night, surrounded and threatened aid workers and erected barricades in other camps.

In the Rwandan capital of Kigali, thousands of jubilant supporters gathered Saturday to hear Mr. Bizimungu call for national reconciliation and urge refugees in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania to come home.

"This is your country. Living elsewhere will not help the course of freeing it," Mr. Bizimungu said in his prepared speech.

He urged internally displaced people to return home to end the misery the long rains now underway would bring to the camps and to cultivate crops and stop living on food aid handouts.

He urged the international community to give him new administration cash to restore infrastructure destroyed or looted by the former government troops as they pulled back to Zaire.

Mr. Bizimungu also said an international tribunal had to be set up by the United Nations swiftly to put on trial those responsible for the genocide of Tutsis and Hutu government opponents.

He repeated denials of U.N. reports last week that troops of his Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) were systematically killing Hutus in revenge and said it was part of a campaign to discredit his government.

The rally was to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the start of a rebellion launched by the Tutsi-dominated RPF to topple President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose killing in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6 unleashed the mass slaughter.

North Korea has been refusing to allow inspections of

Bosnia Muslims, Serbs agree to prisoner swap

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Muslims and Serbs agreed to exchange hundreds of prisoners of war Saturday in a move U.N. peacekeepers hoped would unblock aid to civilians.

Senior officers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) met Bosnian Serb leaders to plead for the reopening of Sarajevo Airport and the resumption of aid convoys which Serbs halted in retaliation for a NATO air strike.

The prisoner swap was part of a package agreed by both sides with the U.N. It also provided for medical evacuations from Muslim enclaves surrounded by Serbs and permission for U.N. doctors to go to them.

Bosnian Serbs demanded the release of prisoners held by the Muslim-led government in return for better cooperation with the U.N. aid effort on which 2.7 million people in Bosnia depend.

U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said: "This agreement made provision for the first major release of PoWs and detainees for over a year."

It did not cover the Bosnian Serb closure of the airport and a ban on U.N. aid convoys which peacekeepers said was beginning to affect Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. These may have to be resupplied by air.

General Sir Michael Rose, the UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia, discussed the convoy blockade with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale outside Sarajevo.

The U.N.'s aid mission, vital to civilians on both sides during the coming winter, has become entangled in a quarrel between the U.S. and its European allies over the use of NATO air power against the Serbs.

Zagreb claims the U.N. ceasefire in Croatia effectively freezes in place Serb gains on soil where an independent

aggressively to punish Serbs for attacks on U.N. peacekeepers or Muslim safe havens under U.N. protection.

But each use of NATO warplanes has been followed by a hardening of Serb defiance.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA), which controls 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic, has allowed hardly any aid to move in Bosnia since the last attack a week ago.

U.N. peacekeepers committed to operating only through consent and negotiation have been powerless to force the issue.

Further evidence of disunity among Western powers emerged Friday when the U.S. claimed it had evidence a Yugoslav military blockade of Bosnian Serbs was being breached.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Paris believed the border blockade was being respected and noted in a pointed rebuff that the "Pentagon was not in charge for verifying" violations.

Bo Pelitas, head of a team of international civilians sent to monitor the Yugoslav-Bosnian border, refused to comment on the American accusation.

If Mr. Pelitas reports the border is leaky, the U.N. plans to start lifting sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia 2½ years ago for fomenting the Bosnian war.

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Friday to extend the mandate of the 40,000 UNPROFOR troops in former Yugoslavia for another six months.

Croatia, one-third of whose territory is occupied by rebel Serbs in U.N. protected areas, wanted a shorter mandate.

Zagreb claims the U.N. ceasefire in Croatia effectively freezes in place Serb gains on soil where an independent

Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) has been set up.

RSK Serbs heavily-armed by Belgrade occupy a third of Croatian territory but account for only six per cent of the overall population.

Serb forces blocked a convoy of French U.N. peacekeepers from crossing the Bosnian border into Croatia early Saturday, a French U.N. battalion spokesman told AFP.

Twenty vehicles with 60 French U.N. peacekeepers were stopped at Majevac, sixty kilometres (38 miles) northwest of the Muslim Bihać pocket in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, Major Jean-François Philippe said.

Battalion officers were trying to negotiate the convoy's passage with Serb representatives in Vojnic, a small Croatian town controlled by separatist Serbs.

The French peacekeepers had been heading for Rijeka, a large port in northwest Croatia, to load a boat with battalion equipment so Bangladeshi troops can relieve them of their post in Bihać.

Serb forces accuse French U.N. peacekeepers of favouring the Sarajevo government, which also toppled Muslim dissident leader Fikret Abdic in the Bihać pocket in August, and have regularly blocked their path.

Meanwhile Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said fear of losing the eastern enclave of Serbrenica to besieging Serbs forced the Bosnian government climdown over lifting the U.N. arms embargo.

Lifting the weapons ban would have provoked an immediate withdrawal of Dutch U.N. troops protesting the U.N.-declared safe haven and left its 44,000 inhabitants prey to attack by Bosnian Serb forces, he said.

Bosnian officials announced the reversal on the embargo issue in New York Monday following talks



Women and children wait with jerry-cans for water which arrives via tanker trucks. After 15 days, water finally began to flow again in Sarajevo but only for the hospital and other priority points (AFP photo)

versed its long-standing demand to be allowed to buy arms, saying it wanted implementation of a vote to lift the arms embargo.

Mr. Izetbegovic said the Dutch defence and foreign ministries had warned they would withdraw their troops from the enclave if the arms embargo was lifted.

"That would probably have happened if over the weekend Serbrenica would have withdrawn and we had to account for it," he said.

"As far as we could because"

gambling with the lives of tens of thousands of people."

In an AFP interview earlier this week U.N. Bosnian Commander General Rose said he had repeatedly warned the Bosnian authorities that lifting the arms embargo would spell the end for the eastern enclaves, home to some 125,000 people, mostly refugees.

Although a strategic liability for the out-gunned Muslim-dominated Bosnian army, the eastern enclaves of Serbrenica, Zepa and Gorazde have enormous emotional and symbolic importance to Bosnians.

2 Koreas build up military hardware

2 Koreas build up military hardware

SEOUL (Agencies) — The two Koreas, confronting each other across their cold war divide, have both been building up military hardware amid tension over the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

The South Korean ministry said there had been no changes in the size of the two Korean armed forces over the past year with the South having 655,000 troops and the north 1.03 million.

In a defence white paper, the ministry said the South had increased its number of tanks by 150 to 1,950 and armoured vehicles by 200 to 2,100 over the past year.

North Korea had maintained its number of tanks at 3,800 and its armoured vehicles at 2,500.

Both Koreas had beefed up field artillery capability with the South increasing its number of field guns by 100 to 4,600 and the North by 500 to 10,800, the paper said.

In April the United States Patriot air defence missiles were sent to South Korea to guard against possible missile attack by the North.

It also sent Apache attack helicopters to South Korea to replace aging Cobra helicopters.

North Korea has variations of the Scud missile and is capable of producing 100 to 150 of them a year, the paper said.

The North is known to have successfully test-fired the "Rodong-1" missile with a range of up to 1,000 kilometres which is capable of striking central Japan.

While it was presumed that the North possesses nuclear materials it is not clear if it had produced nuclear weapons, the paper said.

"We must rise up to the challenge of unification," said Mr. Kim.

Italy's leading graft judge to

MILAN (R) — Antonio Di Pietro, Italy's most famous anti-graft judge, is himself being investigated by fellow magistrates after a man he sent to jail accused him of slander and abuse of office, judicial sources said Saturday.

The South Korean ministry said there had been no changes in the size of the two Korean armed forces over the past year with the South having 655,000 troops and the north 1.03 million.

North Korea had deployed 65 per cent of its armed forces to forward positions as far south as the demilitarized zone dividing the peninsula in a bid to maintain its ability to launch a surprise attack, the paper said.

South Korea had built one submarine over the past year increasing its total to two while the North has 26 of these vessels.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said here Saturday there would be "no winners or losers" in the process of North-South Korean unification, but that it was the only path for the Korean people.

Speaking at a massive military ceremony marking the country's Armed Forces Day at Seoul's air force base, Mr. Kim called on all Koreans not to swim against the tide of history, but to "rise to the challenge of unification."

Some 12,000 army, navy marine and air force troops and hundreds of tanks, mobile artillery pieces and jet fighter planes were mobilized for the parade, which was resurrected here for the first time in four years amid lingering tensions on the peninsula.

The number of suspected cases in the seven of India's 26 states hit by the plague rose to 2,566 Sunday, up from 2,400 Friday, said senior health officials who added that the number of confirmed cases was not immediately available.

They also reported two more deaths in New Delhi Saturday that could have been from plague. They said a 35-year-old woman died shortly after giving birth and a 22-year-old man died in the same infectious disease hospital.

Only tests, which can take up to four days, would prove whether or not they had died of plague, the officials said.

Two people died in New Delhi earlier this week of plague, the first reported deaths in the capital.

Almost all the other deaths were in the early days of the outbreak in Surat, on India's west coast, prompting a mass exodus of some 300,000 people to Bombay and across north India.

The health officials said there had been no deaths in Surat for four days and life was returning to normal there, with some factories reopening and some of these

to put their fellow judge on a list of people being investigated.

The procedure is routine in Italy when a complaint is filed in which someone is accused of breaking the law.

This is far less significant than a judicial warrant, which magistrates issue after they have investigated a complaint and suspect a crime may have been committed.

India cranks up bid to ease world plague fears



A policeman directs traffic in Surat city with his nose and mouth covered. The Indian government announced that state health secretaries would meet in New Delhi to draw up a comprehensive plan aimed at curbing the spread of the plague which has left an estimated death toll of 50 in western India (AFP photo)

one hadly affected," he said.

"We may not be as efficient as the United States, but in disaster management we have experience and we have faith in our system to deal with the problem," he added.

"I said doctors were examining all passengers before check-in or in transit lounges for symptoms of the plague — fever, coughing and sneezing — and all aircraft were being fumigated before departure.

The Indian government had already closed schools a day ahead of scheduled vacations to protect children and indefinitely shut cinemas seen as closed environments where the disease might be passed on by victims.

"We want them to report back in their country what they see here," a tourism official said.

Severed links and cancelled vacations have embarrassed New Delhi and hit trade, and senior officials said Saturday that nervousness had spread to business travellers who were now beginning to postpone plans to visit.

The plague outbreak could hurt India's efforts to attract foreign investment, will certainly damage tourist income and trade with Gulf states.

"Tens of thousands of rats are analysed each year in a permanent process," he said.

"Where we find them positive for plague, the nests are sprayed and the rats killed."

He said that on a yearly average only some 150 positive cases were identified.

Meanwhile Pakistan port authorities Saturday ordered all ships coming from India quarantined for clearance by health inspectors to prevent the spread of plague from the neighbouring country.

An official announcement said the Karachi Port Trust had ordered that all ships coming from any port in India must anchor 16 to 19

Meciar ahead in Slovak elections — exit poll

The common choice group led by Prime Minister Vladimír Meciar emerged the clear winner Saturday after Slovakia's general elections, but fell short of an absolute majority, according to an exit poll.

Slovak Radio said its exit poll, taken two hours before voting ended, gave Mr. Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) a surprisingly strong 31 per cent of the vote after two days of polling.

Mr. Meciar, a flamboyant nationalist twice deposed as Slovak premier, seemed to have taken more votes than predicted by opinion polls at

coalition led by Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik and including the reformed Communists.

Mr. Moravcik's centrist Democratic Union took 9.8 per cent of the vote, according to the exit poll, in line with expectations.

An administrative blunder meant Mr. Meciar was unable to vote Friday, but he

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Market of unorthodox ideas

ISRAELI LABOUR Deputy Haggai Merom's proposals for overhauling his party's platform so that clauses opposing the creation of a Palestinian state or rejecting any withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be dropped sounds as the quid pro quo for calling on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to drop language in its charter that suggests that Israel should be destroyed or dismantled. For the time being, Mr. Merom's ideas appear to be held mainly by a maverick group in the Israeli political system who are outraging not only the Likud Party but also the mainstream current of their own party. Yet the fact remains that Mr. Merom has some credentials to speak out on his party's thinking on issues of peace in the region, having been appointed by no other than Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to head a committee to reorganise the Labour Party from head to toe. Mr. Merom's thoughts must also be viewed against the backdrop of "defections" from the Labour Party in support of the Likud's posture on the Syrian occupied territory. Labour Deputy Avi Yehezkel and others have joined hands with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in demanding that a referendum be held before any decision is taken on the Golan Heights or better still that no less than 70 members of the Knesset support any withdrawal from the Heights before Mr. Rabin could be empowered to make a deal with Damascus on the issue.

On the other side of the fence sits the liberal Meretz Party whose platform on the peace process supports the thinking of Mr. Merom and all those factions which share his perspective, albeit silently for the time being.

What all these developments in the Israeli body politic suggest is that considerable political changes are occurring in Israel in preparation for next year's general elections. In parallel with the dramatic changes within the Arab camp, Israelis are bound to mend their ways and their outlook vis-a-vis comprehensive peace with the Arabs. Whether Mr. Merom's bold submissions will ever see the light of day is something that only the future can tell. But the fact is that progressive ideas by Israeli politicians will give ammunition to those in the PLO who have to spearhead the fight for amending their organisation's charter. Words may not be enough to introduce radical changes on the ground in the region, but recent history shows that nothing happens, at least in Israel, before floating unorthodox ideas.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday drew attention to a statement issued following His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Aqaba, saying it carried no sign that a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is imminent. Taher Adwan said that the scheduled meeting in Washington Monday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, was therefore not expected to result in a peace treaty as some Israeli media reported. It is quite reasonable to think that no treaty is in sight because none of the Jordanian demands have been met and issues like water rights, borders and usurped territory remain outstanding, said the writer. It would be wise for Jordan to avoid falling into the trap of any treaty with Israel before the ten records favourably to the Kingdom's right

AHMAD MISLEH, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, Saturday said the occupied Syrian heights constituted the main bone of contention between Israel and the Arabs in general and Israel and Syria in particular. It seems that a settlement of the Golan dispute holds the key to a permanent peace between the Arabs and Israel and, therefore, the Arabs ought to back Syria's position and refuse to allow the Americans and the Israelis to impose their own ideas in this matter, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

General census wrong reasons

NORMALLY, a general census has to be undertaken at least once every 10 years as a base for essential information regarding the population and houses and to keep policy makers informed. The last census was conducted in Jordan in 1979, over 15 years ago. A new census was therefore overdue and a general census was painstakingly planned to take place in November 1994. Full preparation for this major event was made, including the assignment of numbers to every house in the country, forms were written and printed and large numbers of young men and women were recruited and trained extensively for the complex job. Suddenly, the Department of Statistics told the press that the census was called off for the time being, so that no one may think that the census is related in any manner to the current peace process.

What a great wisdom and political prudence! The Department of Statistics, or whoever has made this strange decision, has recorded a historical victory over the wicked plot which was about to unravel, namely the crime of getting ready for the peace process by using scientific methods to collect accurate data and make a full count of the population. The opposition must have caught the government red-handed in getting ready to negotiate property, and the government did not fail to prove them wrong!

In the absence of correct information on population, houses, income distribution, jobs, unemployment, dependency, age grouping, internal and external migration etc... the economic and social planner, or the decision-maker would act like a man with folded eyes walking or running in the darkness without seeing his way. The outcome is of course inevitable. Yet the Jordanian decision-makers decided to close their eyes so that they cannot see the facts or act on them.

I don't know who, under the sun, accused the government or, for that matter, the Department of Statistics of

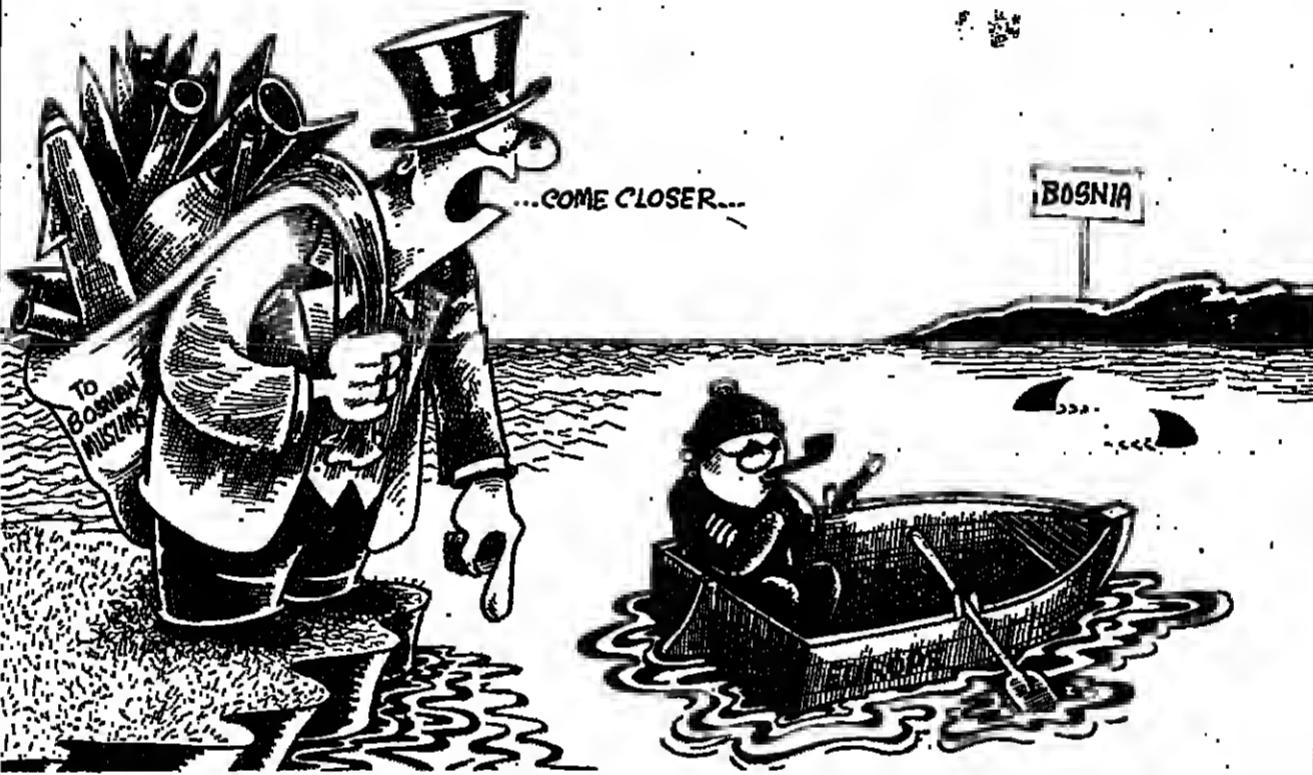
planning a census to serve the peace process. Most likely no one did. This excuse is a poor invention of the genius mind who made the decision to cancel the census and could not imagine a justification better than to prove that an untrue assumption is in fact untrue, killing the long awaited census in the process instead of simply denying the charge or any unfair interpretation, if they ever existed.

However, let us assume for a moment that the planned census was in fact related to the peace process. What is wrong with that? Is it so bad and a serious mistake to try to collect all the information that may help us get our internal house in order and plan for the future in the light of solid facts.

Let us go even further and make the worse of assumptions, that the purpose of the census was to count and prepare lists of the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and the displaced Palestinians of 1967 so that Jordan can claim the right of return in favour of the second group and compensation in favour of both groups for property in Israel, and to request possible compensation for Jordan against the huge burdens of accommodating both groups. What is wrong with that?

If it is true that the census is related to the peace process, then the Jordanian government must be commended for its farsightedness and its proper readiness to the negotiation process. In this case the cancellation of the census is a valuable service to Israel and a blow and a disservice to the Palestinian cause. Calling off a census related to the peace process is a step to call off the claims of Palestinians residing in Jordan to get their right of return to the West Bank and Gaza and to receive fair compensation for property left behind in 1948. Ignorance, it seems, continues to be the leading guide of our steps. The census should proceed as originally scheduled. We should not yield to unfounded charges.

M. KAHIL



A year after uprising, Yeltsin leads a changed Russia

By Larry Ryckman
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A year after he called out tanks to save his government, President Boris Yeltsin leads a changed Russia.

It has a new constitution, a new parliament and something really new: emerging signs of hope. Russia is experiencing the first semblance of political and economic stability of Mr. Yeltsin's three years in office.

Many old problems remain and life is still grim for millions who have suffered since the Soviet Union sputtered to an end in 1991. Opposition leaders plan to renew attacks on the government this fall, and as always, anything could happen. But there are increasing indications of a turnaround, from scores of dazzling, newly renovated buildings in Moscow to lower inflation.

Another omission was early presidential elections. When he dissolved the old parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said he favoured early elections. His aides spoke of holding them in June 1994. Now they talk of holding simultaneous presidential and legislative elections when Mr. Yeltsin's term expires in 1996.

The lack of public outcry may reflect the changed political atmosphere.

Since the strong showing by Vladimir Zhirinovsky and other nationalists in December's parliamentary elections, Mr. Yeltsin has toned down reformist and pro-Western rhetoric, although neither economic nor foreign policy has changed significantly.

After putting down street riots and defeating his enemies Oct. 4 with army help, Mr. Yeltsin got a new constitution and parliament. But he failed to establish an independent judiciary. The third pillar of a democratic state.

Most judges date from

troops out of Germany and the Baltic states. The government even ignored protests by nationalists and welcomed 250 American soldiers in September to joint exercises on Russian soil.

Young reformers enlisted to transform the economy into a market system are gone, a development their

ly expressing hope in other ways, by saving money and planning two or three months ahead. Two years ago, when annual inflation was 2,000 per cent, neither was possible.

"Life has become better and calmer now, no doubt about that," said Antonina Kalesnikova, a 44-year-old engineer shopping for a new television. "There is stability today."

Despite the changes, Mr. Yeltsin and lawmakers — like presidents and parliaments everywhere — still have plenty of differences. But now, because of the new constitution, the president is in a much stronger position.

When lawmakers objected to his privatisation programme, for example, Mr. Yeltsin overruled them with a decree. If things really get out of control, the president has the power to dissolve parliament.

The opposition remains largely fractured. Leaders of last year's uprising were freed from jail under an amnesty approved by the new parliament, but have not attracted much support. Hardliners now grumble about public apathy.

There is little enthusiasm for Mr. Yeltsin, either. Many Russians are tired of politics altogether.

"The temperature and mood of society attest to de-politicisation," former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told the daily Moscow Komsomolskaya.

"People, I think, have turned toward their own lives, toward their own problems."

Most Russians are not prone to outbursts of optimism — many believe such talk only invites misfortune. But they are quiet-

U.S. increasingly isolated on Bosnia

By Kurt Schork
Reuters

SARAJEVO — The United States has failed in its efforts to persuade European allies to get tough in Bosnia by lifting the arms embargo on government forces and punishing Serbs with NATO airstrikes, diplomatic sources said on Friday.

"Even the Bosnian government feared what would happen in the short-term if the arms embargo were lifted," said a Western diplomat in Sarajevo, who asked not to be named.

"NATO nations listened politely to the Americans in Spain this week, but there was no agreement to do anything concrete. Britain, France and Russia are controlling policy on Bosnia, not the United States. The Americans are alone on this."

U.S. President Bill Clinton argued Bosnia's right of self-defence and the need for NATO to be more vigorous in striking Serb forces when they violate U.N. resolutions.

But American rhetoric has not been backed by diplomatic clout or military muscle sufficient to persuade traditional European allies to fall in line.

After nearly two years in office, Mr. Clinton is widely regarded as the weakest American president on foreign policy since World War II. Friends and foes alike have taken advantage of that weakness to steer their own course.

Britain and France, who have thousands of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, complain that Mr. Clinton talks tough but refuses to send U.S. forces to share the risk his policies would bring to progress in Bosnia.

When Mr. Clinton vowed to ask the U.N. Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia if rebel Serbs had not accepted the latest international peace plan by Oct. 15, Britain, France and Russia teamed up in vocal opposition.

They said the move would plunge Bosnia into full-scale war and necessitate a U.N. withdrawal.

The Bosnian government, having already lost 70 per cent of the country to better-armed Serbs, worried

that if the U.N. lifted the arms embargo before new weapons and training could take effect.

Bosnia rejected Mr. Clinton's proposal from himself and the U.N. this week by proposing that the lifting of the arms embargo be delayed for six months.

Britain, France and Russia saluted Bosnia but had little doubt they would continue to oppose lifting the embargo next year.

U.S. efforts to use an option as senior partner in NATO to force the pace of events in Bosnia fared little better this week than the arms embargo initiative.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, attending a NATO meeting in the Spanish city of Seville, pushed for massive use of air power to punish Serbs for flouting the will of the international community.

"When we go in, I want to go in with compelling force, enough to make it clear there is a heavy price to pay for violating the rules that NATO has established," Mr. Perry said.

The American position, well-known within NATO circles, prompted sympathetic noises from a number of member nations, but resulted only in agreement to improve coordination with the U.N.

Most diplomatic analysts say nothing will come of the matter because the United Nations, not NATO retains control over when, where and what to hit with air strikes in Bosnia.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. commander in Bosnia who must initiate requests for air support, believes negotiation, not bombing, is the key to progress in Bosnia.

"The U.N. has been charged with resolving this mess and we're committed to a policy of negotiation with proportional force and 'when all else fails,' a U.N. official, who asked not to be named, said on Friday.

"If NATO or the United States were to send in ground troops to fight a war here they would be in a better position to dictate policy. Until that happens NATO is here in support of a peacekeeping mission. It's not time for the big stick yet."

LETTERS

The media that we need

To the Editor:

I HAVE read with interest your coverage of the seminar "the role of the Media in a Democracy — the Case of Jordan." I salute all participants for their papers and insights.

My only remark on the subject is that I have always felt strongly about the lack of our efforts by media to analyse, translate and report the message of the regime to the man in the street. We are used to reading with quite interest publications like, the International Herald Tribune, the Christian Science Monitor and others analysing, for example a speech by His Majesty inside and specially — outside Jordan and giving opinions on it, while our papers fail to translate what His Majesty is trying to say. It has always been funny when I read His Majesty speeches and find out that they are being censored by our own papers.

I wish the day would come, when I do not have to read such foreign publications to understand my King.

Metri Twal,
Amman.

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

I CONGRATULATE you on the long article giving a true description of the first and second session of the conference on "The Role of the Media in a Democracy — the Case of Jordan" on Sept. 27.

On page 1 you write "...of the seminar, organised by the Centre of Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, and funded by a grant from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German institution..."

May I draw your attention to the fact that the Konrad Adenauer Foundation does not understand its activities as mere funding, and that, in fact, we have contributed to establishing the programme as well as to organisational aspects.

I would appreciate your taking this observation into consideration in any future reporting concerning our organisation.

Hubert Dobros,
Director,
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994

Prince Mohammad turns 54 today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday celebrates his 54th birthday.

Born in Amman on Oct. 2, 1940, Prince Mohammad received his elementary education at the scientific Islamic College and then pursued his academic studies in Switzerland and Britain. In 1956 he joined the military college in Baghdad for one year.

Prince Mohammad acted as regent on several occasions. On Nov. 11, 1973 he was appointed personal representative of King Hussein.

Prince Mohammad has assumed several posts including the presidency of the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and the presidency of the Higher Tourism Council in 1972. He is president of the



Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid in March 1981. He has two sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.

King holds talks with Mahathir

(Continued from page 1)

recently banned by the Malaysian government is the Al Arqam. The government's decision to outlaw the Al Arqam movement is because of its deviationist teachings which are glaringly against the very fundamentals of Islam."

"Malaysia has been following with keen interest the recent developments in the West Asian region and we are indeed encouraged by the series of historic breakthroughs in the peace process. With the establishment of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as well as the Jordan-Israeli declaration on the end of hostilities, I hope the stage will be set for a full reconciliation in West Asia through the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace between the Arab States, the Palestinians and Israel."

"The peace accord is a solid step in a region battered by conflicts for more than half a century. The international community has the responsibility to make it succeed. I hope there will be extensive international participation in the social and economic development of the territories that have lan-

Israel ready to withdraw

(Continued from page 1)

Majali said "the Arab right to these islands is crystal clear." He noted that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) openly declared that it was ready to discuss the issue by peaceful means and negotiations to reach an acceptable and satisfactory solution.

"The other party is still showing intransigence which does not benefit any one," Dr. Majali said.

Commenting on Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries, Dr. Majali disclosed that "a series of meetings and visits are due soon with these

states."

"Relations have recently witnessed tangible improvement," said the prime minister, recalling his recent meeting with Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, the UAE president, and the meeting held in New York last week between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal in the presence of Prince Bandar Ben Abdul Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to the United States.

These meetings, Dr. Majali said, were all warm and extremely cordial.

GCC ends boycott

(Continued from page 1) those companies or are subsidiaries of them. The primary part relates to direct trade with Israel.

Mr. Christopher explained the GCC statement by saying: "There is a commitment from the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council no longer to enforce the secondary and tertiary aspect of the boycott and not to discriminate against American companies."

There was no official comment in the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — and official news agencies reported the ministers' meeting with Mr. Christopher but did not mention the boycott move.

The head of Israel's chambers of commerce, Dan Gil-

lerman, said the lifting of the boycott would bring new investments to Israel and boost Israeli exports.

"Since the establishment of the state to this day the economic damage to the state (by the embargo) has been a total of \$40 billion in investments and Israeli exports," Mr. Gillerman said in a statement.

"With the lifting of the secondary boycott now a new era has opened for investments in Israel and it presents new possibilities for Israeli export."

"Lifting the boycott will encourage multi-national companies in Europe and the Far East to invest in Israel and develop new markets that were heretofore closed to Israel, especially in high-tech, science, medicine and others."

Sarid: Settlers may be moved

(Continued from page 1) cided against moving out the settlers, reportedly fearing at the time that his fragile government would not be able to withstand massive right-wing street protests.

But Mr. Sarid said Saturday that once troops pull out of Hebron and other Palesti-

Palestinian life decays in Jerusalem's old city

By John West
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Teenage Palestinians with shaved heads and tattooed arms sit smoking on the steps of a 16th-century mosque that is slowly falling to pieces. At least one of the gang is high on drugs.

Children play hide-and-seek in the rubble of centuries-old houses that have caved in on themselves while the stench from piles of rubbish, damp rot and dried urine wafts out of a Warren of alleys.

For Palestinians, life is grim in Jerusalem's old city, holy to Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

The plush Jewish quarter, developed since Israel conquered the old city in the 1967 Middle East war, boasts dozens of synagogues and Jewish institutes, neat, tree-lined squares and some of the most expensive real estate in the world.

Rich Jews from around the world snap up luxury apartments overlooking the Wailing Wall.

But many of the city's 25,000-odd Palestinians are leaving the city they venerate as the heart of their nation in droves. Most move to newer Arab suburbs of East Jerusalem, even beyond the city borders in the West Bank.

They cite rising crime and the difficulty of getting building licences to maintain their homes.

But their main reason is the disintegrating social fabric. Israel has gradually decapitated Palestinian public life in the old city, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), for all its rhetoric about the sacredness of the city, has done almost nothing to reverse that.

"The main problem is that there is simply no civil society here. There has been a conscious policy by Israel to remove the national Palestinian character of the city," said Eileen Kuttab, a professor at Bir Zeit University from the Christian quarter.

"But I blame the PLO just as much. They have done nothing to establish a Palestinian presence here. Only civil institutions can save us," she added.

Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its undivided, eternal capital. The Palestinians claim the East as the capital of a future state. This conflict seems the most difficult of all those now facing the

two sides in peace talks. The old city used to be the centre of Palestinian life, with scores of schools, hospitals, clinics and covered markets.

But a 1990 closure by Israel drained much life-blood out of the city. Many West Bank teachers, doctors and other professionals who worked in Jerusalem had to find other jobs and their institutions closed.

Apart from the popular tourist bazaar, the old city now boasts far less economic life than other Palestinian towns such as Ramallah and Nablus in the West Bank or self-ruled Gaza.

Palestinian officials and intellectuals happy to talk for hours about Jerusalem as political issue rarely go there.

Drug use has fuelled crime, which rose 25 per cent in the last two years according to police figures. Robbery and burglary shot up by 85 per cent in the years 1991-93, to 596 reported cases.

"Israel has encouraged drug use by Arabs," said Michel Sayegh, a doctor who specialises in rehabilitating addicts. "One day during the intifada, I saw soldiers come into a house to take a child throwing stones. To get to him, they stepped over a group of young men taking heroin and left them there."

"Arabs are typically given lighter sentences for drug use than Jews," he added.

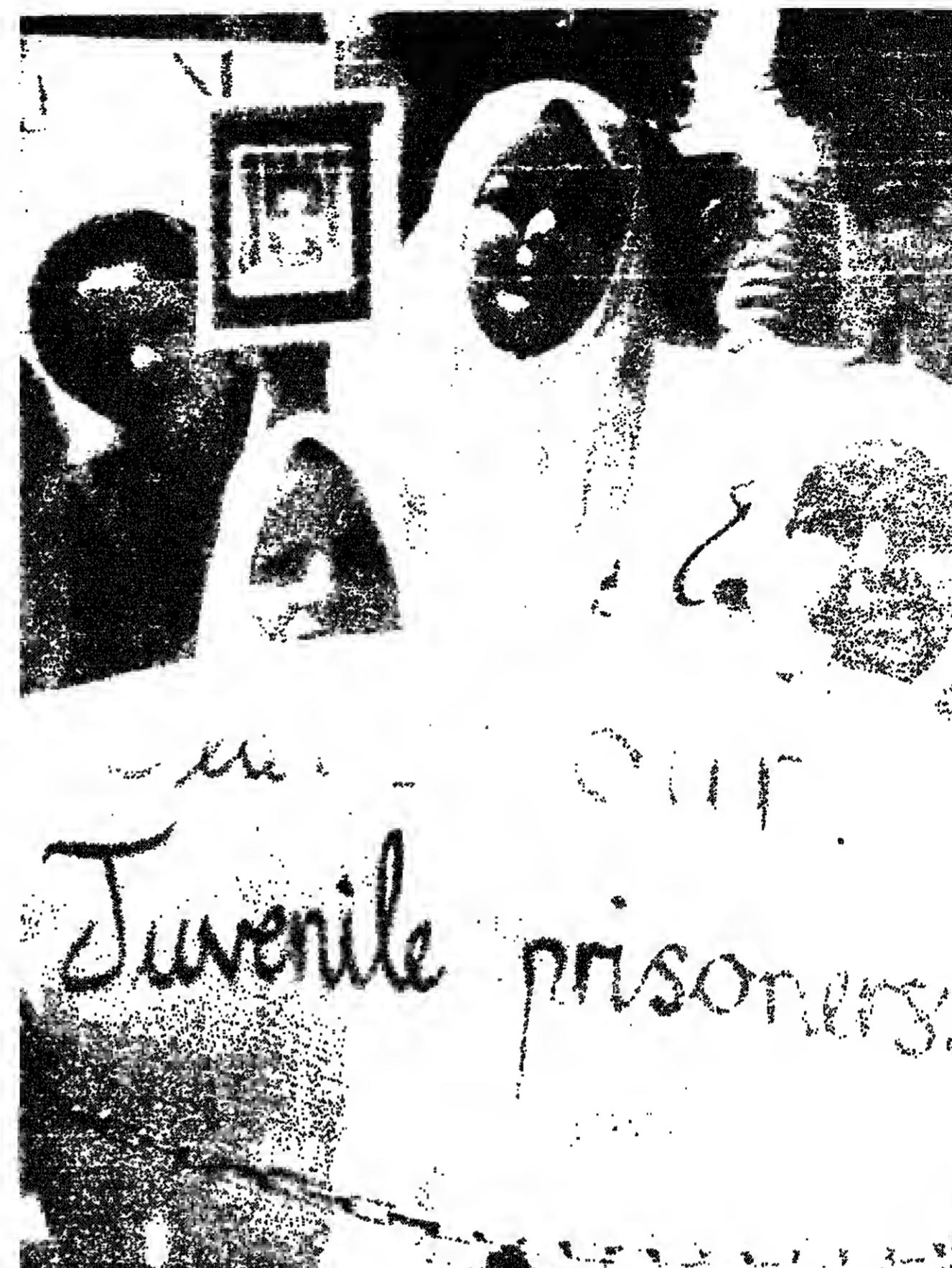
Jerusalem's Mayor, Ehud Olmert, talks of an "economic masterplan" to develop the eastern part of the city but leaves little room for Palestinians to develop their own services, since this would challenge its "Jewish nature."

"We have to invest in quality of life for Arabs. They are a respected minority," he said.

Palestinians say there is systematic racism in the way the municipal council rejects building permits for Arabs and approves them for Jews. Mr. Olmert denied this but said there had been problems under his predecessor as mayor, Teddy Kollek.

Faisal Al Husseini, the man the PLO has charged with looking after Palestinian interests in the city, says he plans to introduce services, run a Jerusalem committee set up by the PLO, and encourage initiatives by Palestinian businessmen.

But he tacitly admits he is



Palestinian women in Jerusalem demonstrate to demand the release of detained relatives (AFP photo)

fighting a losing battle: "Their resources are many, many times more than ours. We know there are many social problems with drugs and crime mafias that the Israelis have turned a blind eye to."

Most Arabs in the old city have not heard of any Palestinian initiative to provide leadership.

"I was born here and would like to stay but I must tell you, if I get the money I will move my family

out," said Ibrahim Saleh, a 42-year-old souvenir seller. The large walls of his house, at least 200 years old, are covered with mould.

"This house is collapsing on us. Only two out of the

five rooms are usable and we cannot get a permit or the money to repair the rest," he added.

"I might be better off if I lived in Gaza. Here we live in the capital but we are forgotten," said Mr. Saleh.

New U.S. troop role: 'I came, I saw, I pacified'

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Twisting Julius Caesar's Martial Credic a bit, the U.S. military's unfamiliar mission in Haiti boils down to this: "I came, I saw, I pacified."

And those thousands of heavily armed troops trying to pave the way for democracy in Haiti have rekindled bitter debate in Washington over the uncertain role of America's armed forces after the cold war.

Peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, not bashing the enemy, are the Pentagon's lot in small nations these days, while politicians and generals worry that "mission creep" will kill or injure troops in tasks they are not prepared for and were not originally assigned to do.

"The cold war is over. We must secure the peace," U.S. President Bill Clinton told the United Nations on Monday in a speech following a weekend firefight in which U.S. marines killed 10 Haitian police and paramilitary gunmen.

Mr. Clinton urged other nations to share the workload. But analysts say the brunt of the burden is falling in large measure on the world's only remaining superpower, where budget cuts are now fast shrinking the armed forces.

Opinion polls show most Americans oppose the U.S. mission to restore ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power even though an outright invasion was called off in a last-minute deal with Haitian military leaders.

"You've got a military that took trillions of dollars

to take the next hill and win dogfights in the clouds. And they are off fighting Haitian police," said Joshua Epstein of the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank.

"But if you're going to restore democracy in Haiti, why not restore minimum standards of life in Bosnia?" asked Mr. Epstein, stressing that decisions on use of troops in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid are sometimes driven more by the politics of outcome than right and wrong.

The Haiti operation fol-

lows two other controversial incursions of U.S.

forces into the Third World: Rwanda, where the last forces running a humanitarian aid effort are now leaving, and Somalia, from which they have all been withdrawn.

"Sending the troops was easier when war was the issue or it was a mission that didn't risk lives and that most supported," said former U.S. assistant defence secretary Lawrence Korb.

The president has said repeatedly the only role for U.S. forces in Bosnia will be to help police a peace accord.

"But with the Soviet Union

solve little in the long run," added Mr. Korb, who is also with Brookings.

Despite Haiti, Somalia and Rwanda, Mr. Clinton has made clear no U.S.

military involvement in Bosnia.

The likelihood of dangerous combat remains too high.

The president has said repeatedly the only role for U.S. forces in Bosnia will be to help police a peace accord.

Mr. Perry said in a speech last week that both

Haitian and Bosnian peace are in the U.S. national interest — but not in its "supreme national interest," and therefore not worth a full-scale war.

"When the prospect of world war three was around, there was plenty of justification for having a big military and using it," said one senior Pentagon official.

"Even the Gulf war was easy because fighting Saddam Hussein was like fighting Hitler. But times sure are changing fast."

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994 9

Oil price
hits \$1

Financial Markets Jordan Times
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
Sterling Pound*	1.5782	1.5800
Deutsche Mark	1.5487	1.5501
Swiss Franc	1.2855	1.2859
French Franc	5.2853	5.2925
Japanese Yen	98.60	99.16
European Currency Unit	1.2345	1.2323

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 30/9/1994				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.37	5.37
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.68	6.00	8.06
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.67	5.00	5.33
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.81	4.06	4.37
French Franc	5.28	5.40	5.75	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.18	2.35	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.61	6.12	6.75

* USD per SDR ** Eurozone Opened at 10:00 a.m. LMT

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding \$1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.0980	1.1035
Deutsche Mark	0.4485	0.4507
Swiss Franc	0.5402	0.5429
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen*	0.7019	0.7054
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira**	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100 ** Other Currencies Date: 1/10/1994

Currency Bid Offer

Bahraini Dinar 1.6330 1.6500

Lebanese Lira* 0.0410 0.0425

Saudi Riyal 0.1855 0.1874

Kuwaiti Dinar 2.5150 2.5470

Qatari Riyal 0.1903 0.1923

Egyptian Pound 0.2000 0.2150

Omani Riyal 1.7810 1.8710

UAE Dirham 0.1592 0.1902

Greek Drachma* 0.2735 0.3115

Cypriot Pound 1.5950 1.4970

* Per 100

Airlines, traders lose out as Gulf- India traffic halted

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states, fearing that an outbreak of plague in India may spread, have closed their airspace and territorial waters to traffic from the sub-continent, inflicting losses on several airlines and traders.

The ban, which entered its third day Saturday, has crippled activity in one of the busiest air routes in Asia and brought one of the most thriving dhow trades in the world to a complete standstill.

"We will suffer losses, as this is one of our most profitable routes, given the high demand," an Air India official said.

"Our planes are also being subjected to strict inspection measures at Gulf airports although many of them are not coming from India."

An official from Gulf Air, which is owned by four Gulf governments, said the airline could lose millions of dollars if the ban remained in effect in the coming weeks.

Most of the flights are fully booked, as over 50,000 people shuttle between the two regions every week.

India maintains a relationship with the Gulf dating back more than a century.

India's exports to the region consisted mostly of food, spices, perfume, incense, clothes, machinery, electrical appliances and other manufactured products.

The trade slumped when Japan invented cultivated pearls, but picked up again when oil was discovered in the Gulf four decades ago and turned the impoverished desert region into one of the wealthiest in the world.

India's busiest regional air and sea link is with Dubai,

home to more than 200,000 Indians. Many are businessmen who maintain regular commercial relations with their homeland and are a key source of gold for India.

Most of India's trade with Dubai and other parts of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is conducted by ships and dhows — the traditional wooden boats of Arabia.

In 1993 India's trade with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was worth over \$3 billion.

Importers of vegetables and other foodstuffs, however, said they had turned to other markets like Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran to make up for the losses.

Authorities in the UAE have turned back several food-laden dhows that

approached its coast, while many more have returned home before reaching its territorial waters, according to UAE coastguards.

Dealers said they expected the prices of spices and other Indian speciality products to increase if flights and shipping remained suspended for weeks.

They ruled out an early price rise because of large existing stocks.

Gulf states imposed a ban on air and sea traffic with India to prevent the spread of plague that has killed nearly 50 people there. On Friday, officials said they were stepping up anti-plague measures despite Indian protests.

The measures included

screening of passengers at airports, the establishment of emergency centres, spraying pesticides in houses, public places, ships and aircraft and organising awareness campaigns.

The UAE, with the largest Indian community in the Middle East, went further by suspending postal services as well as visas and work permits for Indians.

"I do not understand what all these measures are for," said a UAE-based Indian, whose wife and three children were stranded back home on vacation. "It only remains for them to cut telephone links with our country."

Analysts: Asia to continue facing petrochemical shortage

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asia will continue to suffer from a shortage of petrochemicals despite feverish efforts to increase capacity in line with growth, industry officials and analysts have said.

Demand for petrochemicals in the region would grow by up to nine per cent annually, more than double the world growth rate, because of increasing Asian exports of value-added products, such as textiles, clothing, footwear and machinery, they said.

"Asia at large will remain a net importer for petrochemical products," said Manava Rao of the National University of Singapore's chemical engineering department at an international seminar on petrochemicals here.

Mr. Rao said current shortages in Asia could not be overcome even if the booming South East Asian economies moved from a demand position of 3.1 million tonnes per year to an excess supply position of 200,000 tonnes in

three years as projected.

Asia's petrochemical market was currently a business of more than \$30 billion annually and was going to expand more than double to \$80 billion by 2000, analysts attending the conference said.

To satisfy growing demand, many Asian nations had built up or were about increase their petrochemical capacities.

Major chemical producers from the West, facing relatively slower growth rates and increasing competition at home, are also tapping the Asian market.

"With the existing facilities and also upon completion of the planned facilities, Asia is going to be the chemical powerhouse by the turn of the century," Mr. Rao said.

Anthony Kam, the Asia Pacific vice president of Mobil Petrochemicals International Ltd., told the conference that Asia's petrochem-

Bulgaria, Russia to send gas to Europe and Turkey

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria plans to build three new gas pipelines across its territory to distribute Russian gas to western Europe and Turkey, Bulgaria's energy committee chairman has said.

Under a deal setting up a joint gas company with Russia, Bulgaria will complete a pipeline to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia which would then be extended to Italy under the sea, Nikita Shervashidze said in an interview.

"Apart from the gas pipeline to Turkey, which is now operating, the construction of a new one is planned," Mr. Shervashidze said.

A third pipeline to Greece is also under construction.

The joint gas company agreement, which Mr. Shervashidze called the deal of the century, was ratified by the two sides in Moscow last month. The pact is due to be signed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during a visit to Sofia this month.

Under the agreement Russia represented by its giant Gazprom and Bulgaria represented by state firms only, would hold equal stakes in the venture.

"Russia will pay half the construction costs for the pipeline," Mr. Shervashidze said.

He added that the plan would help stabilise Bulgaria's economy as it would profit from transit taxes and be able to rely on a constant supply of gas.

"Our agreement with Russia for natural gas imports expires in 1997 and we should not forget that afterwards we would have to pay for gas in foreign currency," Mr. Shervashidze said. "The establishment of this gas company is essential for us."

Pakistan approves plan for gas pipeline from Qatar

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet has approved a plan to import natural gas from Qatar, a government statement said.

It said an ECC meeting chaired by Ms. Bhutto approved the scheme, which provides for a \$3.2 billion gas pipeline to be laid from Qatar to Pakistan. It gave no further details.

Pakistani President Farooq Leghari said last month after a visit to Iran that Tehran had agreed to join the project.

The project's first phase would comprise a 1,600-kilometre pipeline and transmission facilities from a southern gas field in Qatar to Pakistan.

The pipeline is planned to carry 1.6 billion cubic feet of gas per day and later to be extended to India.

The gas pipeline project is being sponsored by Sharjah-based Crescent Petroleum Co. International, Canada's TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., the world's foremost gas transmission company, and Brown and Root Inc., which is a leader in offshore pipeline engineering and contracting.

The pipeline will carry gas offshore from Qatar across the lower Gulf to the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) west coast and overland across northern UAE to the Gulf of Oman.

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S. Korea rolls over Nepal 11-0 as soccer tourney starts

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — South Korean striker Hwang Sung-Hong scored a record eight goals as his team rolled over Nepal 11-0 Saturday, establishing themselves as the favourites in the Asian Games soccer tournament.

And two former Soviet republics celebrated their first appearances in the games with strong showings.

A late penalty shot gave Turkmenistan a surprise 2-2 draw with China and Uzbekistan stunned Saudi Arabia 4-1.

In other first-round games, Malaysia edged Hong Kong 4-3, Kuwait tied Oman 2-2, and Bahrain shut out Yemen 2-0.

But it was South Korea's performance that had the Asian Games buzzing before the event even formally opens Sunday and set off a scramble for the record books.

Hwang's eight goals were the most by a single player in Asian Games history and organisers were trying to determine if the 11-0 win was the biggest ever.

The striker from Seoul's Posco Atoms, one of the world's biggest steelmakers, scored five of South Korea's seven goals in the first half. He headed home goals, slammed them in from well outside the penalty area, weaved around the goalkeeper and delicately guided them through walls of players.

Hwang, 26, a veteran of

two World Cup campaigns, left day Nepal in a haze and they spent most of the game desperately clearing the ball towards the goal mouth.

South Korea, Saudi Arabia and China along with host Japan were the favourites in the 18-team tournament.

China was fortunate not to lose as they could not overcome a Turkmenistan side that arrived only one day before the game with 11 players, had no specialist goalkeeper, and played most of the second half one man down.

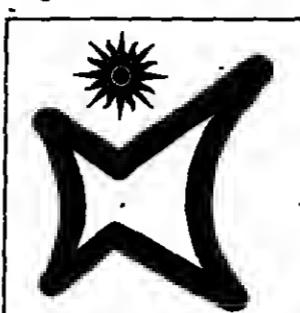
Forward Kamil Mingazov took over in goal and let in a shot by Gao Feng in the 11th minute and a disputed penalty by Gao Zhongzun in the 70th minute.

Turkmenistan opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Berymurd Nurmurodov's free kick deflected off the wall and past Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chuiyuan.

Captain Charyarkuli Seidiyev tied the game for Turkmenistan by converting an 87th-minute penalty.

China had also been reduced to 10 men just before the goal when Jin Guanguang was given his second yellow card of the game.

The Turkmenistan players also thought they had scored in the 73rd minute when the ball appeared to cross the line after a goalmouth scramble following a corner kick, but referee Abdul Rahman Al Zeid ruled it had not.



Hiroshima Games emblem

Rahman then showed the red card to Nurmurodov for arguing the call.

"It was an injustice," Nurmurodov said. "It was a real goal because the ball crossed the line."

Turkmenistan manager Tachmurad Agamuradov said transportation problems meant the coach and six players would arrive late for the tournament.

"We didn't have a goalkeeper. It was indeed a difficult situation so we were very happy we could tie the game," he said.

Saudi Arabia and South Korea represented Asia in this summer's World Cup, but the Saudis only selected players 23 years old or younger for the tournament.

Besides Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, three other former Soviet republics — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — are making their first appearance at the games.



GAMES OPEN TODAY: Hundreds of school students Friday perform during the rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the 12th Asian Games at the Hiroshima big Arch (AFP photo)

Drug chiefs deny targeting China's women swimmers

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — International swimming officials deny that China's top women were singled out for special attention during random dope testing three days before competition begins at the Asian Games pool here.

China's head coach Chen Yuyong said his women were "emotionally" upset after being targeted by officials from FINA, the International Swimming Federation, who swooped unannounced during training time Friday at the Asian Games competition pool.

FINA requested urine samples from 17 Chinese, 12 Japanese, and one Hong Kong swimmer, said Yoshihiko Muto, a member of FINA's medical commission. One Chinese swimmer was not at the pool so only 16 were tested.

"The swimmers were selected according to their world rankings," he added. "We have no intention of singling out the Chinese swimmers."

But coach Chen was unhappy at the timing of the tests so close to competition.

"You cannot deny the emotional impact of this kind of thing on our swimmers," he said.

FINA has been attacked for failing to carry out enough random tests which catch swimmers unawares.

Testing at international events gives drug cheats too much warning, top coaches say.

Chinese women swimmers have shot to the top of the world in four years, culminating in their haul of 12 out of 16 titles at the world championships in Rome in early September.

Suspicion that their rise has been fuelled by drugs clouded their Rome performance, prompting U.S. coach Richard Quick to raise the possibility of a boycott of the next championships unless FINA tightened testing procedures.

Muto said the random testing here was intended to show that FINA was taking action.

"The tests were conducted with the basic aim of demonstrating FINA's tough stand against drugs," he said. "In Rome we agreed to uphold tighter anti-doping measures and this is a direct result."

FINA conducted only 40 random dope tests last year against 1,000 carried out in athletics, according to Quick.

Thirteen Chinese women, including 12 who had competed in the world championships in Rome last month, along with three Chinese men, were escorted away to give urine samples which were flown to Tokyo for analysis at the Olympic-accredited laboratory there.

Results of the drugs testing could be published early next week, Muto said.

The drug swoop occurred on the same day a leading U.S. swimming magazine ruled the Chinese women champions ineligible for its "swimmer of the year" award.

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Eltingh, Olhovskiy advance in KL

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Jacco Eltingh and Andrei Olhovskiy are in Sunday's final of the \$400,000 Kuala Lumpur ATP tennis open after overcoming their opponents in straight sets Saturday.

Eltingh, of the Netherlands, seeded number two, took 81 minutes to get past Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), while Russian Olhovskiy had an easier pas-

sage with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Germany's Alexander Mironz.

Both winners relied on their hefty serves and excellent returns to set up a clash in the second set.

Eltingh, 24, who has won in all his previous three ATP Tour finals, said: "I was serving very well from the start and anticipated my return perfectly."

He took the first set with a

service break in the ninth game and kept up the pressure in the second set.

Woodbridge put himself back in contention in the second set.

"I was not serving as well in the second set and that disrupted my focus. But I needed to be tough at that point. I stayed calm and it saw me through," said Eltingh, who is currently ranked 39 in the world.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994 11

ENGLISH SOCCER

Cole, Lee earn Newcastle 2-0 win at Villa

LONDON (R) — Newcastle United stretched their lead at the top of the English Premier League with a 2-0 win at Aston Villa Saturday as second-placed Blackburn went down 2-1 at Norwich.

Newcastle's red-hot goalscorers Andy Cole and Robert Lee were both on target to take their tally to 11 apiece for the season.

Champions Manchester United kept in touch with a 2-0 win over bottom side Everton, but Arsenal slumped to a shock 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace, who had not won this season.

Ian Wright scored his 100th goal for Arsenal, but it was scant consolation as the defeat cast one of the pre-season title contenders 14 points adrift of Newcastle.

Steve McManaman scored a hat-trick as Liverpool came from behind to crush Sheffield Wednesday 4-1. Ian Rush claimed the other goal.

Tottenham Hotspur ended a run of three league defeats thanks to a stunning long-range goal from Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu for a 2-1 victory at Wimbledon.

Blackburn, who suffered a shock midweek exit from the UEFA Cup against Swedish part-

ners Trelleborgs, went down to their first league defeat of the season at Norwich despite taking an early lead.

Chris Sutton took only four minutes to score against his old club on his first visit since they sold him to Blackburn for five million pounds (\$7.9 million).

But Norwich equalised through Mark Bowen on the half-hour and notched up only their third league win of the season when defender John Newsome scored his first goal for the club in the 55th minute.

Blackburn remained in second place, but fell five points behind the leaders.

Newcastle were held goalless for over an hour by Villa, but the home side, tired following their UEFA Cup evasions against Inter Milan on Thursday and the league's leading scorers, Cole and Lee, snatched a seventh win in eight games.

Lee put Newcastle ahead in the 66th minute with a shot that swerved wickedly through the air and spun when it hit the ground in front of goalkeeper Nigel Spink. Cole struck seven minutes from time.

McManaman ended a two-year goal drought at Anfield in emphatic fashion with a hat-trick as Liverpool moved up a place to fifth. Rush equalised Ian Nolan's

first-half goal in the 51st minute. Three minutes later McManaman put Liverpool ahead with his first league goal at Anfield since November 1992.

He added two more in the 66th and 86th minutes.

A first-half header by Andrei Kanchelskis put Manchester United on course for a victory that moved them to within two points of Blackburn and third-placed Nottingham Forest, who play Queen's Park Rangers Sunday.

The Russian international converted Lee Sharpe's 41st minute cross and sharp sealed the game with a goal of his own two minutes from time to leave Everton with just three points from eight games.

Three years to the day after a knee injury almost wrecked his career, John Salako damaged Arsenal's title aspirations with both goals in Crystal Palace's 2-0 win at Highbury.

Salako, who spent two years battling to rescue his career from the crippling injury, blasted away the Gunners with goals in the 19th and 41st minutes.

England striker Wright notched up his century of goals in 143 games for Arsenal against his old club, but could not save them from a second home defeat.

Noel Whelan also scored twice to lift Leeds to a 2-0 win over Manchester city and into sixth place and Southampton picked up their third league win a four matches with a 3-1 victory against Ipswich.

Rush equalised Ian Nolan's



Ian Rush

Al Hussein lead as violence mars Jordanian soccer scene

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein maintained the lead on goal difference over second placed Al Wihdat at the conclusion of the 5th week of the Jordan Soccer League first division championship which was marred by some violence during Thursday's match in Irbid city between Al Hussein and Kufri Soum.

Al Hussein managed to beat Kufri Soum 5-2 after uncertainties over holding the match. The Jordan Soccer Federation has decided to move the match from Mafrag city to be held in Irbid amid protests by Kufri Soum.

The match was interrupted after some violence by fans who were calmed by security personnel, but scattered clashes started on the field among players which prompted the referee to send off Kufri Soum's Soleiman Mohammad.

After the end of the match, one of the linesmen was physically assaulted by one of Kufri Soum's reserves.

This was not the only violent incident marking the weekend soccer matches since second division team Al Fuheis players and administrators also attacked the referee of their match with Al Salt. The referee, Mohammad Hudeib, was first assaulted by Imad Mifrej of Al Fuheis after he was issued a red card. Then the referee,

chased all over the field, punched and kicked by the player, decided to end the match, a decision which angered the other team members and administrators who followed the suit of Mifrej.

The security personnel again bad to interfere to end the violence and the referee was taken from Al Petra Stadium in Amman to a nearby hospital and discharged later in the evening.

Al Salt was leading 1-0 before the match was interrupted.

In Mafrag city, Al Qadisieh managed to score its first win of the season, defeating Al Arabi 3-1. Al Qadisieh's goals were scored by Muneeb Abu Hantash, Mustafa Adam and an own goal by Al Arabi's Zakariah Mornani.

Rakez Karasneh scored the only goal for the Irbid side.

Standings after 5th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	5	5	—	—	20	4	10
Wihdat	5	5	—	—	8	1	10
Ramtha	5	2	3	—	8	3	7
Faisali	5	2	2	1	8	3	6
Ahli	5	2	2	1	6	6	6
Kufri Soum	5	3	—	2	13	14	6
Jazireh	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Shabab Al Hussein	5	1	1	3	8	12	3
Arabi	5	1	1	3	4	11	3
Qadisieh	5	1	1	3	7	11	3
Joe	5	—	1	4	3	11	1
Kamel	5	—	—	5	2	11	—

SUKACITA KAMI MENGUCAPKAN SELAMAT DATANG

KEPADYA YANG AMAT BERHORMAT PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA.

**DATO' SER IDR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD DAN
DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BTE HJ. MOHD ALI.**

JUGA MENGALU - ALUKAN KEDATANGAN

PENGERUSI MISC DAN TIMBALAN PENGARAH PENGURUSAN

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SEMPENA LAWATAN RASMI MEREKA KE JORDAN ATAS

JEMPUTAN RASMI KERAJAAN JORDAN

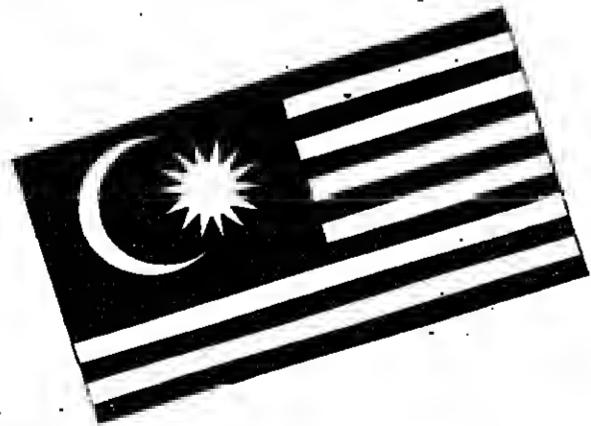
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Iraq: No monitoring if sanctions remain

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will not allow U.N. monitoring of its arms industry unless sanctions imposed for its invasion of Kuwait are lifted, Baghdad's most influential newspaper said Saturday.

"Undoubtedly, the coming two weeks will lead to a decisive stage in the course of the military, political and economic confrontation between Iraq and... American imperialism," Babel, published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said in a front-page editorial.

Babel said Iraq would not wait for sanctions to be eased as envisaged by U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus' special commission after a six-month period in which the monitoring process would be tested.

It said "the notorious (U.N.) Resolution 687" did not stipulate any test-period and Iraq was not under obligation to accept it.

"There will be no future monitoring without lifting of the embargo and no cooperation with the U.N. from one side," Babel warned.

The editorial was Iraq's strongest warning to date of the actions it might take if the devastating sanctions, which include a ban on oil exports, were not removed.

Babel lambasted the U.N. envoy, describing him as the "accused Ekeus." It said he was supposed to announce the start of a U.N. long-term monitoring of Iraq's arms industry on Oct. 10 and from Iraq's point of view "the chapter of banned weapons will be closed."

U.N. sanctions have wrecked Iraq's economy, already hit hard by the Gulf war. The government decided last week to cut food rations by as much as half. The rations barely provided Iraqis with half of basic needs.

Prices of scarce staple foods have soared to unprecedented levels.

The government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah said Iraq gave up its long-range missiles, binary chemicals and nuclear

and biological warfare equipment in the hope of seeing a quick end to the embargo. "What is the price we got for that?" Al Jumhouriyah asked. "Still we remain hands folded and see our great Iraq going with the wind."

Iraq's official press has hardened its stand towards the United Nations and the United States following a speech by President Saddam Hussein this week warning that he would not stand idle in the face of the continuing embargo.

Russia is already making detailed plans to resume trade once sanctions are lifted and to recover debts estimated at between \$7 and \$16 billion.

The United States and Britain, the other two permanent members of the council, oppose any easing of the sanctions.

Frech Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Friday the Security Council, including the United States, had to set definite criteria on Iraqi sanctions and move carefully towards lifting the oil embargo.

"It would like to know exactly what the U.S. administration really wants in order to be able to start applying this paragraph 22," he said, referring to a provision in a key Security Council resolution relating to the oil embargo.

He told reporters Iraq needed to recognise Kuwait and the United Nations needed to be satisfied that long-term monitoring plans to make sure Baghdad did not re-acquire dangerous weapons were up and running.

Mr. Juppe said that if Iraq recognises Kuwait, "I think we could start looking at a probation period enabling us to verify that the monitoring plan really do work."

"If that probation period turns out to be satisfactory, then there could be a partial lifting of sanctions against the country.

On Wednesday, Culture and Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi warned that Iraq would refuse to accept long-term weapons monitoring unless the embargo was lifted.

U.N. inspectors have been eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres since Baghdad's ouster from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

China's ambassador in Baghdad was quoted Saturday

as due to submit a written report to the Security Council on Oct. 10 in which it is expected to say the U.N. surveillance systems at Iraqi military production sites are ready to be activated, Mr. Trevan said.

Several nations, including France, Russia and China, said that if Iraq recognises the borders with Kuwait and a six-month trial period for the surveillance system is successful, then there could be a partial lifting of sanctions against the country.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel names Rabat envoy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has named a senior foreign ministry official and native of Morocco to head the liaison office it is opening in Rabat, the ministry said Saturday. It said David Dadon, director of the office in charge of relations with Arab states, would travel to Morocco on Sunday to prepare for the opening of the liaison office. He would also help prepare for Israel's participation in the Middle East economic conference to be held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on Oct. 30-Nov. 6. Mr. Dadon, 45, emigrated from Morocco 17 years ago but has made frequent return trips to his native country. Morocco and Israel announced on Sept. 1 they would open liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv, as a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations.

Iran criticises Yeltsin

TEHRAN (AFP) — An influential Tehran newspaper on Saturday criticised Russia's President Boris Yeltsin for agreeing to U.S. demands for a ban to Russian arms sales to Iran. "The remarks made by Yeltsin in Washington about the future course of relations between Russia and Iran are not the remarks of a friendly neighbour," said the English-language Tehran Times. The paper urged the Foreign Ministry to "take note" of Mr. Yeltsin's comments and "take the necessary steps through proper diplomatic channels." Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at a news conference on Wednesday with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said "out of other contracts, no other supplies, no other goods will be shipped" to Iran, once a 1988 Soviet-era contract runs out.

Thai-Saudi ties may be cut

BANGKOK (AFP) — Saudi Arabia may sever relations with Thailand if Thai authorities are unable to solve the Saudi jewellery case and the murders here of four Saudi diplomats and a businessman, Riyadh's envoy said Saturday. Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja told local reporters that Thai-Saudi relations would return to normal only when the murders of the diplomats and the businessman and the gems case are resolved. "If the cases cannot be resolved, it is possible that bilateral relations will be severed," Mr. Khoja said, adding that the decision was up to his government.

Iran hits U.S. exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has condemned "illegal military exercises" by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf region and claimed they interfered with maritime patrols by Iranian helicopters, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. The agency said the Iranian Foreign Ministry made the protest Friday. A protest note was delivered to the Pakistani embassy in Washington for relay to the U.S. State Department. Owing to the danger that results from these untimely exercises, unreasonable restrictions and unjustifiable notices given to airmen and mariners, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

protests these illegal activities by the government of the United States and calls for an end to such actions," the note said. Without giving any details of the U.S. exercises, the note said: "Such actions could jeopardise the principles of flight security in this region."

Iran gets new paper

NICOSIA (R) — Iran News, Tehran's third English-language daily and the first Iranian newspaper delivered through personal computer networks, began publishing on Saturday. "We expect to have more than 200 computer subscribers in Iran," Deputy Director Behrooz Talebpour told Reuters by telephone from Tehran. He said the computer delivery service, the first by any Iranian newspaper, was also available to subscribers abroad. The paper said in its first editorial that it would be independent, providing news and analysis within the framework of teachings by Iran's late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Fighting erupts in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — New inter-clan fighting erupted in the Somali capital Mogadishu Saturday between the Habre Gudur sub-clan of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed and another Hawiye sub-clan, the Marrusde. U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDonald said here, Maj. McDonald said the fighting started at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) around the junction of Madina and Uganda streets, with the combatants exchanging rocket propelled grenades and mortar fire. The fighting spread and was still in progress in the Bermuda area of central-southern Mogadishu, forcing residents of the area to abandon the surrounding streets, the U.N. spokesman said.

Cyprus marks independence day

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Cypriot forces paraded through the divided capital Saturday with tanks and missiles to mark the 24th anniversary of independence from Britain, amid deadlock in U.N. efforts to reunify the island. President Giafas Clerides, leader of the 600,000-strong Greek Cypriot majority, took the salute and declared that the 10,000-strong National Guard "gives us the strength to face dangers against the free part of Cyprus." Amid an increase in political tension in recent weeks as the United Nations' latest reconciliation effort founders, Mr. Clerides last month called for "coercive measures" against the Turkish Cypriots if they continue to block reunification efforts.

Pasqua inaugurates mosque

LYON, France (AFP) — French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, roundly criticised for expelling suspected Algerian Islamic militants to Burkina Faso, has opened a show-piece mosque in France's second city Lyon. Mr. Pasqua, whose portfolio includes responsibility for religious worship, used the occasion on Friday to warn against extremism and called for an Islam that was part of France

Princess Basma, Malaysian first lady discuss development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, on Saturday received Dato Seri Datuk Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohd Ali, wife of Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Boe Mohammad, prime minister of Malaysia, at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The visit included briefing about the activities of QAF in social and economic development in Jordan, a QAF statement said.

Dr. Siti Hasmah, who was the first lady doctor to be appointed the state maternal and child health officer and who holds various positions in several women's organisations, showed particular interest in the women and



beauty sectors, it said.

The discussion also touched upon the activities of the Jordanian National Committee for Women and the preparatory committee for the 1995 international conference on women, both of which are hosted by QAF.

Princess Basma and Dr.

Siti Hasmah discussed the role of women in the Jordanian and Malaysian societies, which are similar in several aspects and emphasised the importance of education for women as a leading factor to development.

"If you educate one woman, you educate a na-

tion," said Dr. Siti Hasmah, quoting her father. She added that there are four evils that a society should eliminate to achieve progress: poverty, ill health, apathy and ignorance, and that both Jordan and Malaysia have made great progress toward this goal.

Ties with Bahrain depend on Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia, since the island state takes its cue from its giant neighbour.

It is unlikely that the oil-rich Gulf states would immediately restore financial aid to the Kingdom, given their dwindling oil revenues because of low prices.

Western diplomats say the United States played a key role in advancing Jordan's efforts to reconcile with the Gulf states after King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a declaration in July ending the 46-year state of war between their countries.

That gave the plodding U.S.-sponsored, three-year-old Middle East peace process a shot in the arm.

Hurd to rule on immunity for divorce case princess

AMMAN (AFP) — Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will be asked to decide if a Norwegian princess is entitled to diplomatic immunity to prevent her being named in a British divorce case, Saturday's Telegraph reported. Princess Martha Louise, 22, a direct descendant of Queen Victoria and second in line to the throne of Norway, is alleged to have had a two-year affair with a 40-year-old Philip Morris — and has been named by his wife in divorce proceedings. Under Norwegian law, the princess has royal immunity from court actions in her country.

The five men are purported to be part of a clandestine group which receives funding from Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire who bankrolled volunteers in the Afghan war and has since turned to financing Muslim extremists in the Arab World.

The prosecution has accused the men of getting military training in Pakistan in the 1980s and then returning to Jordan after the end of the Afghan war to destabilise the Kingdom.

The five who took the stand Saturday told the three-judge panel that they had travelled to Pakistan to study at universities. Only one of them admitted he received military training while there, but denied he intended to make use of his skills in Jordan.

He also admitted that he was the author of a paper containing instructions for making bombs which police found in a raid on his residence.

The five suspects also denied they had met with Osama Bin Laden, who is believed to be the Arab League's chief negotiator.

In re-tracing their pre-trial confessions, they claimed these were made under "physical pressure" practised by their interrogators.

Singapore tightens anti-smoking rules

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore, which already had the toughest anti-smoking laws in Asia, tightened them further Saturday. Smoking is now banned almost everywhere in this city-state of three million people.

At the coatal university in Aljunied, police were closely watching activity around the campus Saturday. The Medical Institute at Dergama, and housing for women students at the Medical Institute in the eastern city of Constance.

Many secondary schools have stayed closed in the region around Aljunied where Islamic militant groups are the strongest. More than 500 educational institutions have been set on fire.

Primary schools have been open since Sept. 10, but to certain schools, notably in the Blida region, south of Aljunied, the students and faculty submitted to GIA orders.

Protests at funeral, page 2

COLUMN 8

Prince Andrew sometimes lonely at sea

LONDON (AP) — The Duke of York, describing his life in the navy, said in an interview broadcast Friday that he sometimes would rather be home with his family and that his job can be extremely lonely.

Surrounded in his cabin by photographs of his estranged wife, Sarah, and their two young daughters, Prince Andrew spoke to Independent Television News about his job commanding the Royal Navy minehunter HMS Cottamore. The 34-year-old second son of Queen Elizabeth II has served in the Royal Navy for 15 years and was a navy helicopter pilot in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Argentina. He said he found commanding a ship very rewarding but, "it's fair to say that minehunting is a job not dissimilar to watching paint dry. It takes a very, very long time to achieve anything.... And as a commanding officer you can on occasions get extremely lonely and isolated if you're not careful."

"I want to go home and be with my family as much as I possibly can. But the responsibilities that I have mean that if I have to be away, I have to be with the ship, while I am commanding, has to come first to a certain extent and there are times when I am here when I would prefer to be at home." The duke and duchess, who separated in March 1992, are sometimes photographed with their daughters and enjoying each other's company, and speculation regularly arises that they will be reconciled.

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Protests at funeral, page 2

Belgian

AMMAN (J.T.) — Brussels captain Sunday is scheduled to trade youth by His Majesty King Amman said. Oct. 8, was ex-cooperating and visiting Beiging.

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By P.M. Vane

AMMAN —

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